FBI seeks RP's help in hunting terrorists

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 3

Tourists try Empire State

MAS SAFE DITO! KAHIT SI KING KONG DI ITO NAPABAGSAK!!

NEW YORK—Once again, the tallest structure in New York, the Empire State Building reopened its 86th floor observation deck on Saturday to tourists who looked south with

TOURISTS/ A14

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Erap on trial: Sad, defiant

Defense lawyers weigh options on attending or boycotting hearing

BY VOLT CONTRERAS AND DONNA S. CUETO

ON THE EVE of the first plunder trial of a Philippine president, an alternately sad and defiant Joseph Estrada seesawed between attending and boycotting today's historic hearing, while his lawyers weighed their options.

Contacted by phone in his hospital detention suite around 4 p.m. yesterday, the ousted leader told the INQUIRER he would go "willingly" to the Sandiganbayan, adding, "There is no need to force me."

By 7 p.m., his tune had changed, following a meeting with his lawyers, who have said they are unavailable for the first trial hearing, scheduled at 1 p.m. today.

"I see no point going there if I'm not represented by counsel," Estrada said in a second phone interview. "Who will defend me?"

In the event that none of the defense lawyers show up, the court has authorized a government lawyer from the Public Assistance Office to act as counsel for the Estradas.

Defense lawyer Jose Flaminiano, who took the phone afterward, refused to rule out the possibility that the accused ex-President will make it to court.

"That's his personal decision, but we're still assessing the situation," Flaminiano said.

"Bahala na," Estrada said, sounding resigned, when asked what he would do if the police made good on the Ombudsman's threat to "bodily carry" him to the Sandiganbayan.

A "very sad" Erap met in the afternoon with his defense team at his detention suite at the

ERAP/ A20

THE LEGAL ordeal of deposed President Joseph Estrada begins with today's resumption of his trial for plunder before the Sandiganbayan. Estrada and Ombudsman Aniano Desierto (right) are shown during happier times in this photo taken in May 1999. FILE PHOTO/EDWIN BACASMAS

Ani: I've always been in storms

DECADES into a long career nailing petty crooks and peasant guerrillas, Ombudsman Aniano "Ani" Desierto now has a shot at sending a former president to the gallows.

It is a dream assignment any lawyer would kill for. But as he lays out the corruption case today against Joseph Estrada, Desierto appears a forlorn, wind-tossed figure atop the shifting sands of Philippine politics.

His worst enemy may well be a skeptical public. The 65-year-old inspires mistrust in some quarters and a citizens' watchdog claims he is incompetent.

"I've always been in storms," said Desierto, who was appointed Ombudsman in 1995 to keep an eye on 1.5 million bureaucrats and pounce on any hands dipping into state coffers.

The hunched, bespectacled lawyer with the Julius Caesar haircut and a thick regional accent says he now spends most of his waking

ANI/ A20

Flaws in anti-money laundering law cited

IN AN unprecedented move, legislators worked round the clock for much of last week to pass an anti-money laundering bill for President Macapagal-Arroyo to sign into law Saturday.

Some senators and financial analysts say the Philippines may have beaten the Sunday deadline set by developed nations, but they still insist the hurriedly crafted legislation lacks teeth and may have to be reviewed.

They warn that Republic Act No. 9160, otherwise known as the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, will most likely not pass the scrutiny of the Financial Action Task Force.

The FATF is the watchdog on money matters of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Paris-based club of rich nations.

The OECD earlier threatened to impose economic sanctions on Manila unless it criminalized trafficking of dirty money by Sept. 30.

According to lawmakers and analysts, among the sticking points of RA 9160 is a requirement of a court order to open the bank accounts of a suspected money launderer.

"They (FATF) may object to the provision which requires a court order to open and examine a (suspected) bank account," said Sen. Sergio Osmeña III, one of the authors of the bill's original version which, according to critics, had been "much watered down."

Osmeña said the FATF would be "wary" of such a provision that many legislators had insisted upon as a "compromise" to having the law.

The law creates a special anti-money laundering council that will be empowered to freeze bank accounts with suspicious deposits of more than P4 million. The council

FLAWS/ A19

FILE PHOTO/JOAN BONDOC

CAPT. Ruben Guinolbay: We stood by our Ifugao pride.

Ifugaos hail native warrior

BY BEN MOSES EBREO
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAGAWE, Ifugao—His parents never failed to scold him when, as a young boy, he would fight other children in their neighborhood in Hingyon town.

But for Army Capt. Ruben Guinolbay of the Scout Ranger Battalion that engaged Abu Sayyaf bandits in Lamitan, Basilan in June, his parents' teachings on the ways of the Ifugao helped him in his military career.

Amid cheers and expressions of pride from fellow Ifugaos, Guinolbay, 28, a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class 1994, received honors and recognition from provincial officials last week for "portraying the values of the Ifugao warrior."

Provincial officials led by Rep. Solomon Chungalao and Gov. Teodoro Baguilat Jr. joined a motorcade with Guinolbay, who was wearing his military uniform, along the national highway here.

Guinolbay and other Ifugao soldiers were also honored Thursday

IFUGAOS/ A19

US attacks call for new VFA interpretation

BY AMANDO DORONILA

ANALYSIS

THE 14-PILLAR policy that was announced by President Macapagal-Arroyo last week unequivocally aligns the Philippines behind the unanimous UN Security Council Resolution No. 1368.

The Sept. 12 resolution called on all states to work together in bringing to justice the perpetrators, organizers and sponsors of the terrorist attacks in the United States. It also urged the international community to redouble its efforts to prevent and suppress terrorist acts through increased cooperation.

Expressing "deep shock and revulsion at the cold-blooded viciousness of this attack," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan described terrorism as "an international scourge." According to him, "a terrorist attack on one country is an attack on humanity as a whole."

It was in this context that the Philippine government was one of the first nations to back the UN resolution with concrete policy measures. On Sept. 26, Ms Macapagal announced the 14-pillar policy in which the Philippines commit-

US/ A20

FBI seeks RP's help in hunting terrorists

MAMDOUH Mahmud Salim, convicted for the US Embassy bombing in Tanzania, was here from 1996 to 1998.

BY RAYMOND BURGOS

THE US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), through the US Embassy's legal attaché in Manila, has actively sought the assistance of Philippine authorities in tracking down some of the suspects connected to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks who might have fled to this country, according to a Filipino intelligence official.

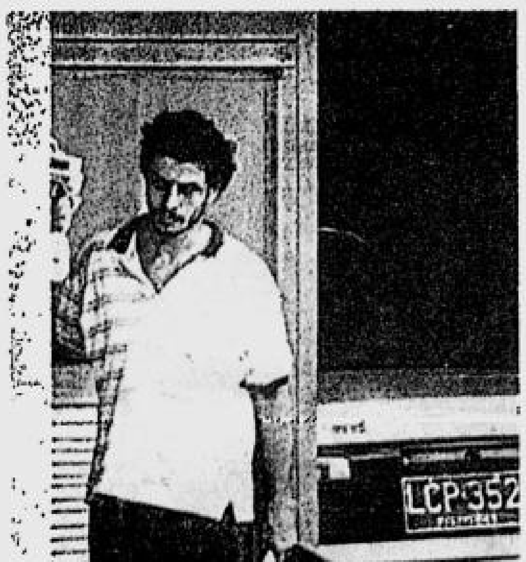
The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said US authorities believe that the Philippines is a favorite haven for international terrorists based on past investigations.

"It appears that international terrorists still consider the Philippines a relatively safer place for their rest and recreation because of apparent laxity in our ports of entry," the official told the INQUIRER in a recent interview.

He said suspected international terrorists had been frequenting Manila and several cities in Mindanao, which they consider "places of refuge."

Quoting sources from the FBI's Joint Terrorist Task Force, the official disclosed that Arab veterans of the Soviet-Afghan war were known to have entered the country in the past, appar-

FBI/ A14



MOHAMED Sadeek Odeh, believed to have trained suicide bombers of the US Embassy in Kenya, had stayed in Davao.

E-mail starts soup kitchens for poor kids

BY BLANCHE S. RIVERA

MISWA with egg and *malunggay* are as good as any Christmas treat for 30 hungry children who wish for food on their table.

With the generosity of unknown Santa Clauses, Christmas came early for children of the MCDA community in Barangay Cembo, Makati City.

For the next six months, the children can look forward to at least one decent meal every day.

At exactly 12:30 p.m., around 30 kids aged 2 to 6 trooped to the local chapel for lunch. The food, served hot by volunteers, came from private firms and well-to-do families.

The beneficiaries of the soup kitchen were found to be suffering from first- to third-degree malnutrition.

Kids like Jerome, 4, and his siblings, Jean, 3, and Alexander Jr., 2, are poor. Their parents earn only P150 a day, barely enough to feed them.

All three qualified for the supplemental feeding program of the Kabisig ng Kalahi, a group working to get the private sector into community service.

"We can't just leave the government to do it," said Kabisig co-convenor Vicky Wieneke. "We saw the opportunity to help, and we took up the task."

Wieneke and her friend, Joanne Zapanta-Andrada, approached Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman and offered to help President Macapagal-Arroyo keep her promise of providing the people "jobs, housing and food on the table."

The Kabisig ng Kalahi would act as facilitators of material help from the private sector to poor communi-

E-MAIL/ A20

BAKIT DI MO KASUHAN?

'$14-M IMPSA BRIBE'

Lacson: Where did $12M go?

By Christine O. Avendaño

SEN. Panfilo Lacson yesterday linked an alleged $2-million bank account in Hong Kong purportedly belonging to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to a $14-million bribe for the approval of a Laguna hydroelectric power plant repair contract.

Lacson, a former national police chief, said he knew of a $14-million bribe offer made during the Estrada administration in exchange for approval of the contract in favor of Industrias Metalurgicas Pescarmona SA (Impsa), an Argentine firm.

He said in a radio interview and later in text messages to the INQUIRER that the contract was not approved by former President Joseph Estrada because it was "disadvantgeous" to the government.

Estrada, he said, had then Finance Secretary Jose Pardo study the Impsa contract again. He said then Justice Secretary Artemio Toquero did not allow the contract to be signed because it had "defects."

In linking the alleged bribe to Perez, Lacson pointed out the haste with which the Macapagal administration, reportedly on Perez's recommendation, approved the Impsa contract just days after it took over the government.

The contract was for the rehabilitation of the Caliraya-Botocan-Kalayaan hydroelectric plant in Laguna.

"(Wh)y was it (Impsa contract) hurriedly signed a few days after (the) new admin(istration) t(oo)k over upon (the) legal opinion/recom(mendation) of Perez?" Lacson asked in a text message.

He added that "since $2 million found its way" to Perez's alleged account at Coutts Bank in Hong Kong, where did the balance of $12 million go?

"*Dapat i*-acc(oun)t *d(i) ba? Di naman si* Perez *lang ang* resp(onsible) for (the) signing of the contract with Impsa?" he said in another text message to the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER called the senator on his cell phone and confirmed that it was he who was sending the text messages.

Earlier, in an interview over dzEC radio, the senator said Perez went to Hong Kong on Feb. 22 with a well-known Filipino businessman to open the account at Coutts Bank.

He said they used a wire transfer from the Cayman Islands to open the account.

The most recent transaction in the account, Lacson said, was a deposit of more than $200,000.

Lacson said he plans to divulge all the details of Perez's alleged account when the justice secretary goes before the Commission on Appointments for his confirmation hearings.

Lacson said he had not wanted to reveal the existence of the account until the confirmation hearings, but he was forced to do so after Perez continued to attack him personally.

What goaded him, Lacson said, was Perez's recent statement that the money-laundering bill passed by Congress could be applied to him.

LACSON

Lacson stands accused by the military of being involved in criminal activities, including money laundering.

"I'm doing him (Perez) a favor so he could prepare himself," Lacson said, of his revelation of Perez's alleged bank account.

Perez has denied Lacson's allegation, daring the senator to file charges in court if he had anything on him.

News reports last week had it that Lacson had accused Perez of having a $20-million bank account in Hong Kong.

Yesterday, over the radio, Lacson clarified that it was the reporters interviewing him who came up with the $20 million figure, mistaking it for same amount Perez had earlier accused Lacson of maintaining in a Hong Kong bank.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto, who is supposed to investigate charges against government officials, refused to get caught in the middle of the Perez-Lacson "word war."

Anyway, "no formal complaint has been brought against Perez" on Lacson's allegations, he said, by way of explaining his refusal to probe the justice secretary.

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8 Mindanao solons move to stop polls

COTABATO CITY—At least eight legislators from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao are seeking to overturn a Commission on Elections resolution calling for the holding of elections in the ARMM on Nov. 26.

Lanao del Norte Rep. Benasing Macarambon Jr. said holding elections for ARMM officials in November would be "anomalous."

Macarambon, who is a member of the suffrage and electoral reforms committee at the House, said the polls cannot be scheduled while a process to amend the law setting the date of the ARMM polls was going on.

The amendment proposes to move the elections to a later date to give the Comelec more time to prepare.

Macarambon said the Comelec was ill prepared for the ARMM polls considering that it had just conducted a national election and the recently concluded plebiscite for the expansion of the ARMM.

Among the legislators reportedly supporting the proposed amendment were Hussien Amil of Sulu, Moner Arbison and Faisal Dumarpa of Lanao del Sur, Abdullah Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte, Guimid Matalam of Maguindanao, Soraya Jaafar of Tawi-Tawi and Gerry Salapuddin of Basilan.

The Comelec's Resolution No. 4591 has set the period for the filing of certificates of candidacy for Sept. 27 while the campaign period is to start on Oct. 12.

Earlier, ARMM regional legislators, led by Speaker Alvarez Isnaji, unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the deferment of the ARMM elections.

Isnaji claimed that setting the date for the polls in November would violate a provision of RA 9054 relating to the terms of office of the officials to be elected.

He said the terms of ARMM executives and legislators would be shortened by at least three months.

Despite moves to defer the election for the ARMM, however, Malacañang has been reportedly inundated with endorsements for potential administration candidates.

Among those endorsed by national and local leaders were: Rasul Mitmug, a director at the Commission on Audit; retired Gen. Romulo Espaldon; ex-Gov. Mahid Mutilan of Lanao del Sur; businessman and former Maguindanao mayor Ibrahim Paglas III; and ex-congressmen Pangalian Ali Balindong and Michael Mastura. *Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Gloria on ID: Congress decides

By M. P. Marfil

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday distanced herself from the proposal to create a national identification system.

She said Congress would have the final say on the proposed national ID system as a law was required before the system could be implemented.

"Malacañang will only support it. It is not Malacañang that will make a decision on that because a law is needed," the President yesterday said in Filipino over Radio Mindanao Network (RMN).

Last week, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said that the President "has made up her mind and supports the move (to put up a national ID system)."

Tiglao disclosed that a technical group and a private computer consultant had been tapped to study the mechanisms of putting the system in place.

Ms Macapagal agreed that a national ID system would greatly help the peace and order campaign. With an ID system in place, barangay leaders could easily identify new arrivals in their areas.

The proposal to put up a national ID system was first raised by former President Fidel Ramos. His successor, Joseph Estrada, also pushed for a nationwide ID system. But both administrations backed down after massive protests.

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THE PHILIPPINES' foreign debt rose 1.9 percent to $50.895 billion in the three months to June from $49.949 billion in the same period last year, central bank data showed yesterday.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas attributed the rise to increased borrowings and adjustments amid a depreciation of the peso.

For the three-month period, the bank said external borrowings by both public and private sectors amounted to $1.704 billion.

The funds were used to bankroll infrastructure, communications and transportation.

The national government, including state-controlled firms, remained to be the largest borrowers, accounting for about 64 percent of the total debt, the bank said. *AFP*

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2 NPA rebels killed in Davao Norte clash

DAVAO CITY—Two communist guerrillas were killed and several others were believed wounded in an encounter with government troops on Saturday in Talaingod, Davao del Norte, the military said yesterday.

Col. Felipe Berroya, commander the Army's 701st Infantry Brigade, said elements of the 72nd Infantry Battalion led by a certain Lieutenant Cruzada were on patrol in Barangay Cabadiangan when they chanced upon some 15 heavily armed New People's Army rebels.

Berroya said the firefight lasted about 15 minutes before the rebels withdrew, leaving behind their two slain comrades who remained unidentified as of press time.

No casualty was reported on the government side.

Berroya said the soldiers recovered one firearm and a backpack containing communist documents.

The clash came in the wake of military operations against the rebels who claimed responsibility for the killing of former Talaingod Mayor Jose Libayao early last month. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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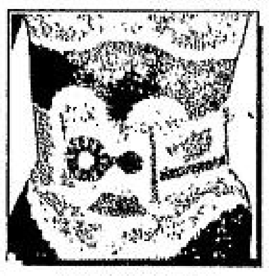

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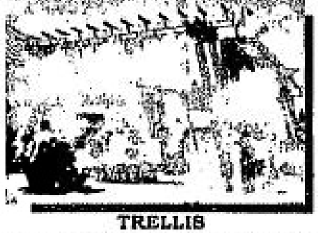

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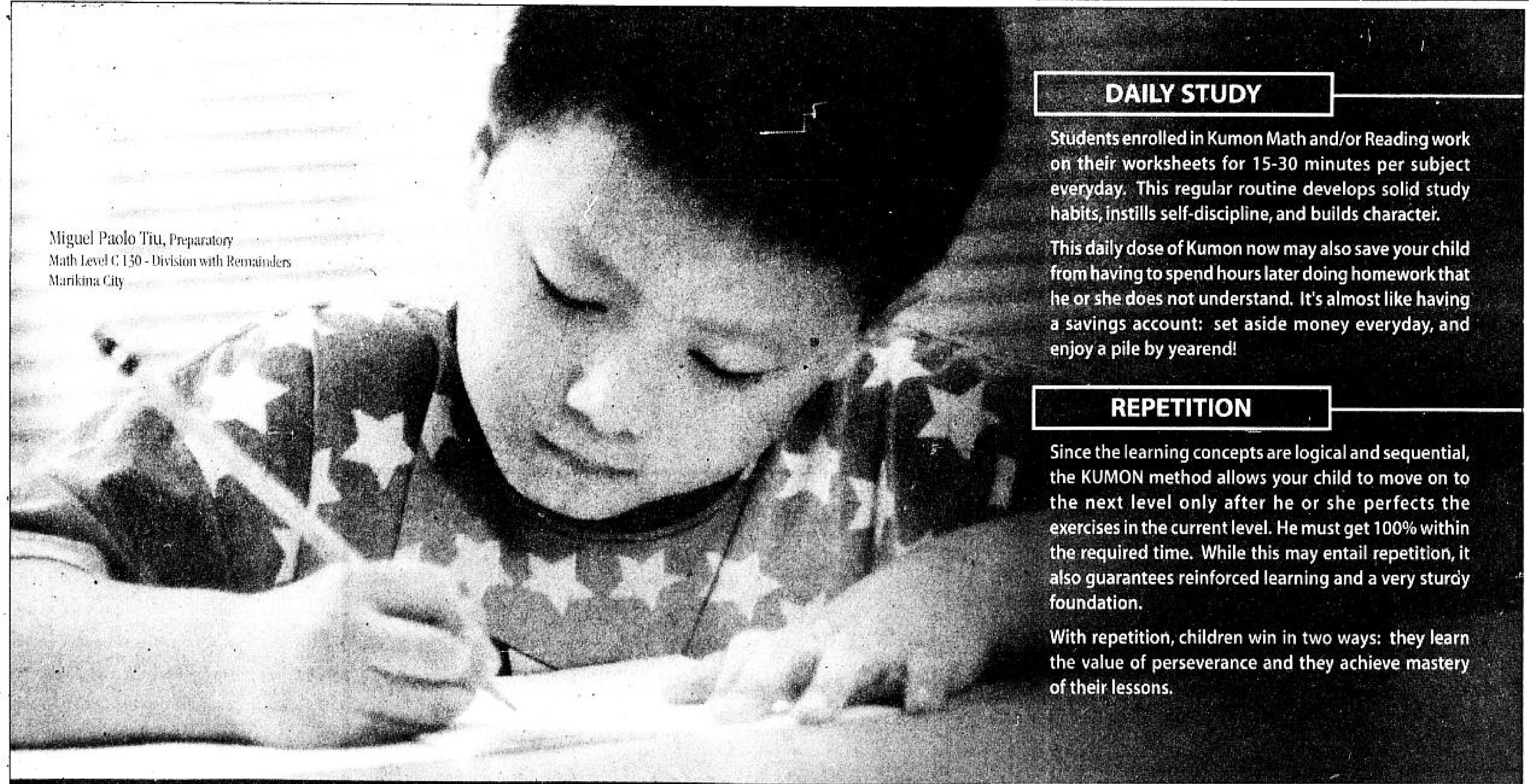

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Militant labor groups slam ₱25 wage hike

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

MILITANT labor groups yesterday deplored the P25 wage hike that the regional wage boards are likely to approve, saying it would not be enough to meet rising living costs.

The Kilusang Mayo Uno said the P25 wage hike was a "done deal" between the government and big business represented by the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries (PCCI) which he accused of conspiring to keep wages low.

He said this became evident when Donald Dee, the Ecop president, announced last Friday that President Macapagal-Arroyo had endorsed a P25 wage hike for Metro Manila workers.

Dee, who spoke at the 10th North Philippines Area Business Conference in Baguio City last Friday, said the P25 rate would be used as the benchmark for deciding wage increases for the rest of the country.

He said approving a P25 wage hike was the only option left for the government until Malacañang can correct the economic flaws that caused an abnormal rise in food costs.

"A P25 wage adjustment could not be acceptable, it is even much lower than last year's P26.50 wage hike and the P25.50 increase in 1999. It is way below the workers' actual need and demand for a P125 across-the-board wage increase to achieve a substantial economic relief," said Bayan Muna Rep. and KMU chair Crispin Beltran.

Elmer Labog, KMU secretary general, warned that the insignificant hike in wages would make it harder for workers and their families to survive.

Beltran has filed a House bill seeking a P125 across-the-board wage increase for workers nationwide.

Congress has begun holding hearings on the bill along with a Senate counterpart measure sponsored by Sen. Juan Flavier.

The KMU has been urging the President to certify Beltran's bill as urgent, but the labor department has warned that a P125 wage hike would result in the layoff of two million workers.

Also pending in Congress are House Bills 1377 and 2370 filed by Representatives Krisel Lagman-Luistro and Roseller Barinaga providing for a P500 living wage and the creation of a new wage-fixing body to be called the National Living Wage Commission.

The moderate Labor Solidarity Movement and the Trades Union Congress of the Philippines have petitioned the National Capital Region wage board for a P77 wage hike petition. The same groups have filed similar petitions in Regions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas has said that the NCR wage board would issue a ruling on the P77 wage hike petition within the week.

Other wage boards have until Oct. 27 to issue their wage orders.

In Baguio City, Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Maza said the party-list group would continue to push for the P125 wage measure through Congress.

She said this was the only means left for workers to survive the economic slowdown expected to occur as a result of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. *With Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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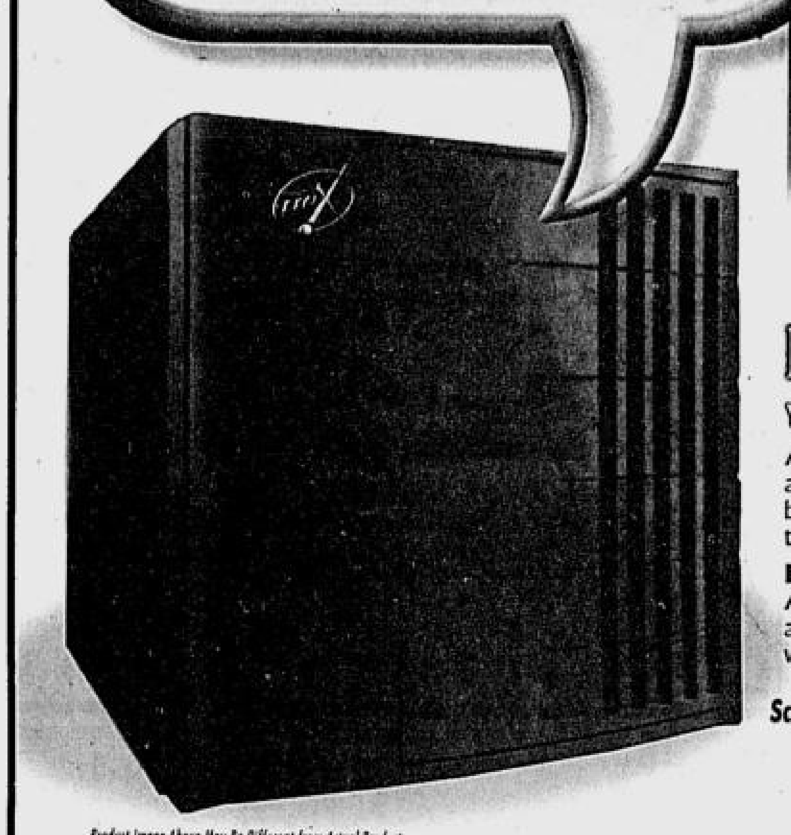

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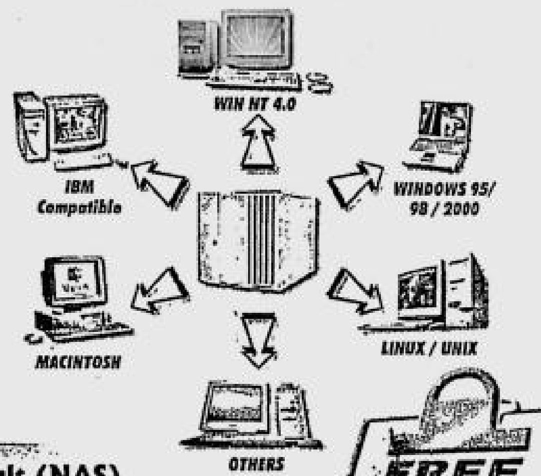

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Lacson confirms 2 top aides have no plans of going back

SEN. Panfilo Lacson said yesterday his former police aides, Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, are in the United States and have no immediate plans to return to the country.

In an interview over dzEC radio, Lacson admitted he had been in contact with the two men who are wanted by local authorities for the kidnap-murder of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito in November last year.

The Department of Justice filed last month double murder charges against Aquino and Mancao in the Dacer case. The two have also been dropped from Philippine National Police rolls for being absent without official leave since July.

Belying suspicions the two ex-officers were hiding out in Canada, Lacson said they were in the US east coast and that he had talked to them over the phone last month when he was in California.

Both men, he said, had no immediate plans of returning to the Philippines because they believe they won't get justice here.

"That's their sentiment and I can't blame them," Lacson said.

He said of particular concern to the two were "biased" comments made by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez against them.

Perez, Lacson said, acts as if he was prosecuting the two men when he should be impartial being the head of the justice department. *Christine O. Avendaño*

VIGILANTE KILLINGS

Woman fifth suspected drug pusher shot dead in Davao City

DAVAO CITY—A suspected female drug pusher was shot to death by two motorcycle-riding men here, the fifth such shooting incident involving suspected drug pushers.

Jacky Gloria, alias Queen Jacky, of 209 Quezon Blvd., died in hospital from bullet wounds from a .38 caliber pistol.

Gloria was the fourth person to have been killed in five shootings believed to have been carried out by a vigilante group here.

Just the day before, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte had said pushers deserved to die although he said he did not condone vigilante killings.

"I do not feel sorry for them. If they cross my way, I'll run over them. But vigilante killing is not sanctioned by law," said Duterte, widely believed to be the "godfather" of the Davao Death Squad vigilante group.

The mayor has repeatedly denied having ties with the DDS or any other vigilante group, including the emerging Los Pepes.

Gloria, who had been on probation since July 20 after having been convicted of drug pushing, was walking with her husband and another companion along Ponciano Reyes St. at about 4:30 p.m. when one of the suspects alighted from his motorcycle and shot her in the head three times.

The gunman casually boarded a getaway motorcycle and sped off after the shooting.

The reaction of Davao City residents has been mixed. Some approved of the swift justice being meted out by suspected vigilantes on drug pushers in the city.

"She deserves it," said one bystander.

Duterte said he has ordered the police to arrest those responsible.

Supt. Wilfredo Garcia, the city police chief, earlier denied that a vigilante group might be behind the series of shootings of suspected drug shooters.

But he has apparently changed his mind after another group, calling itself the Los Pepes, claimed responsibility for the shooting of a suspected criminal in Buhangin District early last week.

"We will investigate these incidents to establish whether there is really a vigilante group behind them," Garcia said.

Since 1992, more than 100 individuals of dubious character have been shot and killed by motorcycle-riding gunmen here. *Anthony Allada with reports from Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

DENR chief forms body to probe exec

By Volt Contreras
and Cynthia D. Balana

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez has formed a special committee to probe an environment official allegedly responsible for the irregular over-importation of ozone-depleting substances.

Peter Abaya, the director of the Environmental Management Bureau, has been charged with grave misconduct.

He has cried harassment and has threatened to file a libel suit against Alvarez.

Abaya, who was appointed by ousted President Joseph Estrada and is up for promotion, said he believed Alvarez wanted to replace him with one of his people.

He noted that the administrative case against him was filed on Sept. 6, a day before Abaya, a United States-trained environmental engineer, was to have been promoted to assistant secretary.

The EMB, a powerful body in the environment department, is responsible for issuing environmental compliance certificates required for industrial projects.

In an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, Abaya said he was denied the due process accorded to all government bureaucrats.

"I was treated unfairly. I did not even know that there was a charge and no committee was created to investigate me. Either he (Alvarez) was poorly advised on this matter or did not completely understand the order," Abaya said.

But Alvarez has downplayed Abaya's threat, saying it was his duty to uphold the law.

The investigation, which will last for 30 days, was prompted by a letter from the Swedish government which noted the rise in the consumption of ozone-depleting chemicals last year and reminded the Philippine government of its commitment to the Montreal Protocol.

Alvarez said any libel case would have no basis because he was merely stating "a truthful narration of the facts in an investigative report that found prima facie evidence."

"It would be best if Abaya faces the committee and answer all these charges," Alvarez said.

The committee was formed by DENR Special Order No. 513 and designated a prosecutor to hear the case against Abaya.

The committee must come up with a report within 30 days.

Abaya allegedly issued pre-shipment importation clearances for refrigerants, or cooling agents for airconditioners and refrigerators, as EMB director last year.

The importation was allegedly issued to unregistered and unevaluated ODS importers and allowed an excess of 367.126 metric tons more than the allowable ODS importation for that year.

This allegedly constituted a violation of Department Administrative Order No. 2000-18, also known as the Chemical Control Order, for ozone-depleting substances.

Abaya has countered that Alvarez's mathematical computation had been faulty.

He said Alvarez had "used his own formula" to compute the allowable amount of imported refrigerants under the Chemical Control Order which stated that the 2000 quota should be equivalent to 80 percent of the 1996 "baseline" quota.

Abaya said Alvarez may have deliberately "ignored a footnote" in the order which said "the 1996 level was only an estimated amount" and that the 1996 baseline quota "should have an allowance of 75 percent."

The 75-percent allowance corresponds to the "unaccounted imports," and which Abaya took into account in letting the 2000 imports reach a total of 2,909 metric tons.

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Budget and Management
Malacañang, Manila

CIRCULAR LETTER
No. : 2001-22
Date : September 29, 2001

FOR : **All Heads of Departments/Agencies/Local Government Units/ GOCCs and others Concerned**
SUBJECT : **Reiterating DBM Warning re- Fixers**

1.0 It has come to our attention that despite an earlier circular letter issued by this Department, some unscrupulous persons continue to offer assistance to facilitate the release of funds chargeable against the Local Government Service Equalization Fund (LGSEF) from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Allegedly, fund releases can be secured by such means as signing an endorsement letter to DBM, among others, in return for a fee.

2.0 We would like to reiterate the disclaimer issued under Circular Letter 2001-12 dated June 29, 2001 and hereby alert all other entities that deal with the Government of such unscrupulous persons using the name of the DBM.

3.0 It is hereby reiterated that the DBM does not authorize any person offering assistance to expedite fund releases for whatever purpose.

4.0 For information and guidance.

(Sgd.) **EMILIA T. BONCODIN**
Secretary The

The public is enjoined to report to DBM at Tel. No. (02) 735-4926 or Telefax No. (02) 735-4927 any person offering assistance to them to expedite release of funds in exchange for a fee.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Budget and Management
Malacañang, Manila

CIRCULAR LETTER
No. : 2001-12
Date : June 29, 2001

FOR : **All Local Government Units and Others Concerned**
SUBJECT : **Disclaiming Letter dated 7 June 2001 Allegedly Issued by DBM Relative to the Mechanics on the Release of the CY 2000 Local Government Service Equalization Fund (LGSEF)**

1.0 It has come to our attention that a letter dated 7 June 2001, allegedly issued by this Department, regarding the mechanism on the release of the Local Government Service Equalization Fund (LGSEF) for CY 2000, is being circulated among local government units (LGUs). The said letter stated that the LGSEF can be used to purchase drugs and medicines to support the delivery of local health services, hospital services and other tertiary health services.

2.0 We would like to clarify that the DBM does not identify the projects for the LGUs nor set the mechanics relative to the allocation/distribution of the said fund. Under Special Provision No. 1 of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) in the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for FY 2000, the LGSEF shall be released to the LGUs in accordance with the guidelines and procedures in the allocation and release of the said fund as prescribed by the Oversight Committee on Devolution (OCD).

3.0 Hence, the Department is disclaiming the preparation and issuance of the said letter, which appeared to have in print the name of Secretary Emilia T. Boncodin, purportedly signed by Assistant Secretary Eduardo P. Opida and initiated by Director Milagros J. Lopez. Said letter is fraudulent and, hence, should be disregarded for all intents and purposes.

4.0 For information and guidance.

(Sgd.) **EMILIA T. BONCODIN**
Secretary

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OPINION

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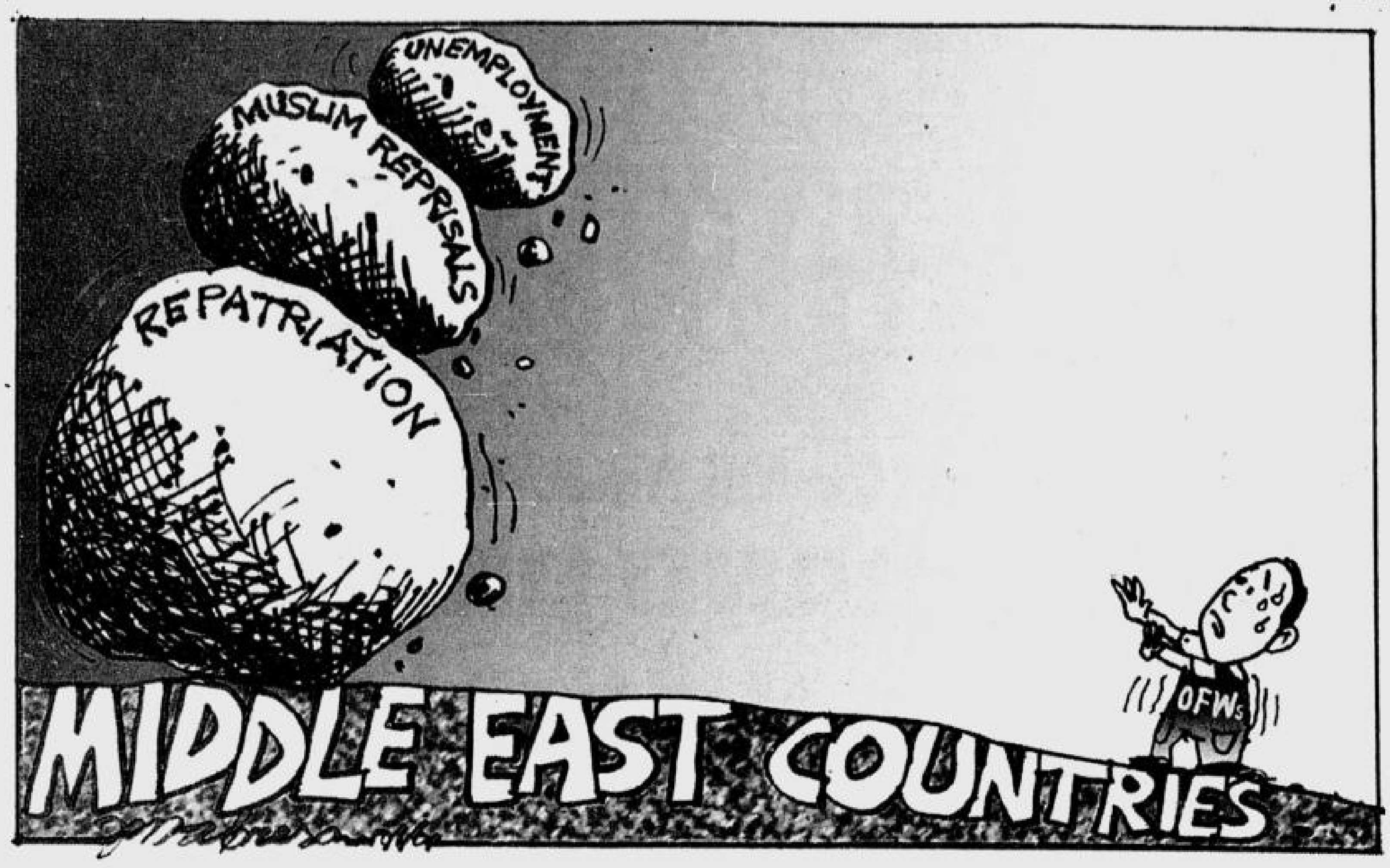

Mullah Omar on VOA

EDITORIAL

IN A rare interview with the Voice of America last week, Mullah Mohammed Omar, head of the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan, blamed the United States for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. What is remarkable in the interview is that VOA broadcast the interview against the pressure of the State Department, giving reassurance that even though the United States is in a state of war on terrorism, the American media have resisted attempts at curtailing freedom of the press, which is a valued principle in American democracy.

The interview did little damage, if at all, to the American war effort which has come out more nuanced and less reckless from the open discussion of how the United States and its allies would respond more effectively against terrorism that has networks crossing national borders. Omar's interview proved to be more damaging to the Taliban mainly because of its obfuscation of historical antecedents that are claimed to have triggered the suicidal attacks.

Omar said, "The US should step back and review its policy. It should stop trying to impose its empire on the rest of the world, especially the Islamic countries...In their pain and frustration, some (Muslims) commit suicide acts. They feel they have nothing to lose."

At the root of the attacks, Omar said, was the US policy embracing Israel. He catalogued US repressive actions against Iraq and support of repressive regimes, resulting in deaths and suffering among Arab nations. He accused the United States of controlling and corrupting Muslim government and replacing Islamic law with "secular law." He said "the evil will not disappear" even if Osama bin Laden dies." This is not just an issue of Osama bin Laden, Omar said, "This is an issue of Islam, throughout the world." He accused the Western world of double-standards, deploring the use of the word on the attackers as "terrorists" while the Irish Republic Army attacks in Britain were not branded as terrorists.

Omar's tirades translate the attacks into a religious war between Islam and the perceived alliance between Jews and the Western "crusaders," echoing what Bin Laden had said in 1998. In an interview, Bin Laden said: "At a time when Israel stores nuclear warheads and bombs, and the Western Crusaders control a large percentage of unbalanced power...it is the duty of Muslims to own weapons," including biological, chemical and nuclear weapons. He said every American is a target, and that Western attacks on Arabs are the handiwork of Jews and Israelis who have infiltrated the US government.

No country involved in the Middle East conflict, regardless of religious creed or race, is blameless for the atrocities that sprang from that conflict. Those conflicts were waged in identifiable territories with identifiable protagonists. True civilians died in those wars; cities were attacked, killing civilians. But the terrorist attacks in the United States gave war a new and international dimension. The attacks used civilians of different nationalities as human bombers, killing nationals of 80 nations. The attacks, no matter what inspired them, were an indiscriminate assault on the human race, even though the targets were sited in the United States.

Omar said the United States should review its Middle East policy, but he did not say whether terrorist attacks would stop if such a review takes place. The vision of Islamic militancy is no less than a religious war ranging Islamic countries against the "crusaders" referring to Christian nations in conspiracy with the Jews. Civilization can't be reversed to go back to the epic conflict between Islam and Christendom incarnated by the Crusades of the 14th century, Omar's attempts at reviving the religious wars sail against the wind of the international condemnation of the attacks, including that from Arab and Islamic governments.

The issue arising from the terrorist attacks is whether the clock of history can be turned back by terrorism that inflicts carnage on civilians and people of other nationalities and whether terrorist attacks can be justified by past grievances. This is the point that Omar and Bin Laden gloss over.

Samuel Brittan, a British statesman, provides a pointed reply. Writing for the Financial Times, Brittan said: "Can you imagine Winston Churchill in 1940 stopping preparations for the Battle of Britain until he felt he understood enough of the origins of the hostility of the German-speaking world to Western countries? If somebody wants to blow you up, the most important thing is not empathize with the combination of heredity and environment that has produced his attitudes but to blow him up."

Nat'l ID system won't catch a single terrorist

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IN 1896, Andres Bonifacio and his Katipuneros started the Philippine Revolution against Spain by tearing their national identification papers at that time, their *cedulas*, as a symbol of their protest against the curtailment of their freedom. Now, Filipinos who grew up on the sacrificial blood of Bonifacio and his Katipuneros are planning to restore the *cedula* in disguise, through the national identification card.

For that is what the national ID system is, a *cedula* in plastic instead of paper. And the purpose is the same; as a means of surveillance and keeping track of the people. It was hated during the Spanish colonization, and it is still hated now.

Attempts to revive the ID system were tried a few times before but were aborted because of the people's opposition. But now the government has a new excuse: the global war against terrorism. Proponents are trying to sell the ID system as the antidote to terrorism. With IDs, so goes the logic, the police would be able to identify and keep track of terrorists. Only simpletons will rationalize like that.

Hello, where have you been? Don't you know that in the Philippines anything can be faked: driver's licenses, Comelec IDs, land titles, bank books, college diplomas, passports, income tax returns, clearances, peso bills, dollar bills, bonds, anything—you name it, the magicians in Recto can do it. Instead of rooting out terrorists, the ID system will only give birth to a lot of fake ones. Terrorists have the money, and means and ability to produce fake IDs for their members. If they can provide them with fake passports false identification papers, why not fake IDs?

Don't tell me there will be safeguards. Since when has the Philippine government been able to provide foolproof safeguards? That is why we have so many flying and ghost voters; that is why our electoral system is so corrupt. It is so easy to get Comelec IDs, safeguard or no safeguard. That is why our traffic is so chaotic. There are so many fake driver's licenses and fake jeepney franchises for sale. That is why our land titling system is so messy. Fake land titles abound in spite of all the "safeguards." The national ID system will just give more business to the faking industry. Filipinos are just too enterprising and innovative and the police and the rest of the government too inept.

A national ID system, which will cost taxpayers billions of pesos, will not be able to catch a single terrorist. If the whole Armed Forces of the Philippines, together with the police and the Cafgus, cannot catch a small band of Abu Sayyaf bandits in the small island of Basilan, how can plastic cards catch international terrorist? It would be easy for Osama bin Laden, for example, to remove his turban and shave his beard and pass himself off as Angelo Mawanay, better known "Ador." He has the chin for it.

The trouble with a national ID system is that it would be advantageous to the terrorists and fugitives, instead of helping to identify and track them down. The ID card will be presumed to give your true identity. It will be *prima facie* proof of who you claim to be instead of who you really are. If the name in your card is "Angelo Mawanay," the people you are doing business with will have to accept that even if you are really Bin Laden. No, the ID system will only allow terrorists to do their thing merrily because they would have ID cards as certificates of whom they are not.

I predict the national ID card will go the way of the residence certificate, which is just a continuation of the hated *cedula*. The residence certificate is supposed to guarantee your true name, your age, your place of birth, your present residence, how much taxes you paid, etc. But you can now go to any city hall, give your name, as Clark Kent or Bruce Wayne, invent a whole new identify for yourself, and you can get a residence certificate guaranteeing that you are Clark Kent or Bruce Wayne. All that is needed is for you to pay the fees.

What will make it worse is that there is now a new law that makes it easy to change names which has been in effect since last April. Republic Act 9048 simplifies the process of changing names. All you have to do is pay P3,500. If you claim to be an indigent, you don't even have to pay anything.

Thus, Bin Laden can theoretically change his name to George Burning Bush by paying P3,500, and get a new ID card. Then he can get another name as Papa Pablo, and secure another ID card. He can have three different identity cards or more as long as he has money to pay. With these identity cards, he can get passports under different names and he can go in and out of airports where security personnel are on the lookout for "that bearded guy with the name Osama bin Laden."

In short the ID system, no matter how expensive it is, will not catch a single Bin Laden or Abu Sabbaya. What it will do is make the contractor who will produce the ID's—and their sponsors and commissioners in government—very rich. And the Filipino tax payers very poor.

By the way, there are very few governments with national ID systems. Those who have, like Germany, have a history of dictatorships. The United States, which is the leader of the international coalition against terrorism, has none. Neither is it proposing to have such a system now, for itself or other countries. It knows it is useless against terrorists.

Victory over terrorism

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

TO FIGHT terrorism, we have done many important things.

To fight terrorism, we have agreed to support America all out in its war against terrorism. We have agreed to let the Americans use Clark and Subic. We have agreed to let them fly their planes in and out of what used to be their airbase, and steer their ships in and out of what used to be their naval base. We have also agreed to accept the American standard policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons in their aircraft, which would be violating our Constitution. To fight terrorism, we have agreed to sleep soundly at night in thought that the Americans would never do anything to violate our Constitution or put us in harm's way.

To fight terrorism, we have agreed to allow the Americans to use Clark and Subic for as long as it takes to fight terrorism. We will probably agree as well to let them turn offshore Dadiangas, which they have been eyeing for so long as an alternate facility, and where they have in fact been already been building infrastructure, into a naval base. The better to patrol the south, which, like Tortuga Island in the past, home to pirates, is the nesting place of today's pirates, who are the terrorists.

To fight terrorism, we have agreed to forget how long and hard it took us to get rid of the US bases and what they represented. We have agreed to forget how Claro M. Recto warned of the evils of mendicancy and dependence, and how by doing so ended up being reviled and shut out of power by his own people. We have agreed to forget how the Philippine Senate, in one passionate show of patriotism, the same patriotism America is now fiercely summoning from the heart of its heartland, ruled to end a long and benighted chapter of Philippine history. We have agreed to reconsider our reading of that history. To fight terrorism, we have agreed to rethink the mistake that might have been our premature severing of our umbilical cord with America.

To fight terrorism, we have agreed to bring back "special relations." We have agreed once more to be America's right hand in Asia and the Pacific, radiating a beacon to this dark and troubled continent, as far as even Arab eyes can see. If we could do that when the continent was threatened by communists, we can do that when the continent is threatened by terrorists. To fight terrorism, we have agreed to be a magnet for terrorism, inviting terrorist attacks as an active, *sugod-mga-kapatid*, member of the anti-terrorism coalition. Happily, we do not have much to worry about since we are already used to being terrorized. Not so much by the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group), who are by no means the biggest kidnap-for-ransom gang in this country, but by the PNP, the AFP, the ABB, the GRP, the IMF, the WTO, the CIA and the BIR. Who cares if a few thousand Filipinos get blown up in a ship or plane or building? There's more where they came from.

To fight terrorism, we have agreed not to protest the rounding up of Filipinos in Belgium. We have agreed to see it as perfectly natural, all Western countries have the right to interrogate people they suspect of immigration violations. We have agreed to see it as nothing personal, the action wasn't really aimed at us, it was aimed at the Algerians, and Moroccans, and Arabs. We just happened to look a little like them, so sorry *na lang*. To fight terrorism, we have agreed as well not to protest Joel Lamangan's being stripped-searched and interrogated in Toronto. We have agreed that Canadian airport officials have every reason not to know the difference between inviting a respected filmmaker for an exhibition and making him do an exhibition. We have agreed that Lamangan looks like a real terrorist anyway.

To fight terrorism, we have reaffirmed the time-tested tenet that whoever supports America all out will be supported by America all out. Like Ferdinand Marcos who sent the Philcag to fight in Vietnam when he became president, though he vowed to fight it when he was still a senator. In return for which, Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger sent him congratulations when he declared martial law. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is willing to send Filipino troops to Afghanistan, troops that the AFP say know how to fight insurgents better than anybody else does. Of course they have been unable to defeat rebels who are fighting for their money in the jungles of Basilan, but that is no reason to suppose they won't be able to defeat rebels who are fighting for their lives in the deserts of Afghanistan. Maybe, in gratitude, America will make Ms Macapagal President for life.

To fight terrorism, we have agreed to globalize Alfredo Lim's favorite axiom, which is that human rights do not apply to human wrongs. To fight terrorism, we have agreed, while making peremptory distinctions between religion and fanaticism, between faith and terrorism, to see that if someone walks like a Muslim and talks like a Muslim, he must be a terrorist. To fight terrorism, we have agreed, while making peremptory distinctions between justice and vengeance, between might and right, to sign all the international protocols vowing death on terrorists without first asking, "But who are the terrorists"? To fight terrorism, we have agreed while making peremptory distinctions between thought and instinct, between reason and fear, to reconstitute, atom by atom, word by word, deed by deed, a past that has only filled this country's soul with absolute terror.

We have done many important things to fight terrorism. So, when Osama bin Laden is captured or killed, when the Taliban women—who are maltreated by their men anyway—lie half-buried in the desert sands, when the more than one million Afghans who have holed up in the border of Pakistan and Iran start trekking back to their homes or whatever is left of them, let us bring out the champagne and raise our glasses in one great historic toast.

To our victory over terrorism.

Plunder not possible if new law had been in place

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

TODAY the trial of deposed President Estrada begins, and it is interesting to note that had the newly minted Anti-Money Laundering Act been in place during the two and a half years of the Estrada administration, he couldn't have gotten to first base with the over P4 billion he now stands accused of having plundered. On the other hand, had this law been in place during the Marcos regime, the millions stashed away by the Marcoses in local banks wouldn't have been possible. The same is true with the fortunes concealed by criminal syndicates such as the bank robbers, smugglers, kidnappers-for-ransom, etc.

* * *

The new law, signed by President Macapagal last Saturday afternoon, a day before the deadline imposed on the administration by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF), hopefully puts all these behind us—or at least more difficult to do. This is because the law has a built-in alarm within the local banking system if any amount from P4 million upwards is deposited by individuals or companies that cannot explain their deposits. There are provisions for the stiff penalizing of bank personnel who do not comply with the required disclosures.

Recall that during the Senate impeachment trial the entire nation was treated to the spectacle of how Estrada agent Yolanda Ricaforte deposited millions and millions into various bank accounts with only the thinnest records to support them. One recalls the drudgery to which Rep. Oscar Moreno treated us all with the narration of bank accounts of Estrada and his cohorts during the impeachment. Well, hopefully, if the new law would be complied with, this could be more difficult to do now.

* * *

The best way to understand money laundering is to think of dirty clothes in the washing machine. One puts in dirty clothes in the machine, and they come out clean, as the detergent ads put it. The same thing with dirty money, such as those from drugs, kidnapping, bank robbery, hijacking, etc. These are deposited in the banking system, and they can afterwards be withdrawn as clean money, thanks to processing by the washing machine of the banks. This is what the new Anti-Money Laundering Law seeks to prevent.

* * *

Yesterday morning, this columnist caught Senate President Frank Drilon as he was leaving a meeting involving parents of his child's class at the Ateneo University in Loyola Heights, and we sat down to coffee across the street. I wanted Drilon to tell me the drama behind the law's enactment; I had also tried contacting Speaker Joe de Venecia for the House version of the high drama, but he was out golfing. Later Drilon quipped, "Joe needs that golf game badly. *Nahirapan siya dito sa* law *na ito*." The Senate chief admitted that it had been a most difficult bill for Congress to pass, largely because there has never been such a law in our country. In addition, it was under tremendous pressure to pass it within a week. As Senate Minority Leader Nene Pimentel put it, Congress felt stampeded into action because of the Sept. 30, 2001 deadline imposed by the FATF.

* * *

Actually FATF, an international agency composed largely of the developed G-8 countries, first forwarded to the Philippines the need to pass this anti-money laundering law in June 2000. FATF listed the Philippines along with some 20 other countries as money-laundering havens and insisted that something be done about the banking system which encourages launderers. The alternative was to face sanctions such as delaying overseas Filipinos' payments coursed through international banks. But for reasons that Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura still has to explain to the public, FATF's demands were not taken seriously by the Estrada administration which abruptly ended last Jan.20. Senate President Drilon, who headed the Senate then, now says he never saw the FATF report.

The new Macapagal administration was plagued by many other seemingly more pressing problems, but as the Sept. 30 deadline neared, there was pessimism on whether it could be met. As Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and Buenaventura told this columnist in Tokyo during Ms Macapagal's official visit, complying with that deadline will have to be "best effort, as we do not control Congress, you know." They told the FATF regional official in Tokyo as much.

* * *

When Congress adjourned for a three-week recess in early September, the various anti-money laundering bills went through the committee process. By Friday, Sept. 21, the report of the Senate banks committee, headed by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., was finished, but only about eight senators signed it. The House appeared to be making more progress than its counterpart, but still no urgency about it. But that was to change.

During the recess Drilon traveled with Sen. Blas Ople and several House members to a tiny West African country called Burkinafasu for an interparliamentary conference. In Paris where he was to catch his connecting plane to Manila, Drilon decided to see Patrick Moullette, executive director of FATF on Sept. 14. It was providential, for he saw the trouble the Philippines was in for. Moullette stressed to Drilon how two things, the Philippines' insistence to access to bank accounts only through court action and our failure to criminalize money laundering, had proved very attractive to the international crime syndicates. He gave Drilon all the documents which showed how the Philippines ended up in the list of "noncooperating countries and territories" together with Russia, Indonesia, etc. Moulette listened to Drilon's argument about the Philippines being a sovereign country and how it was virtually impossible to meet the one-week deadline; he countered that FATF would also be free to impose stiff sanctions against uncooperative countries, and one sanction is what he termed "enhanced surveillance" of the RP accounts by banks of the G-8 countries. The Sept. 30 deadline stood.

* * *

Just before Congress reopened last Monday, Sept. 24, Drilon called a lunch caucus of the senators and he gave them all the FATF documents. *Nakita ng lahat na hindi na biro ang situasyon*, he recalled. Majority of the senators signed the committee report and debate on it opened that afternoon. *(To be continued)*

The usual suspects

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

ROUND up the usual suspects, the chief police prefect ordered his men in a rather amusing cover-up to save his new-found friend Rick (Humphrey Bogart), who had just shot the German officer in the film "Casablanca."

But the film ended all too soon with the tears of Ilse(Ingrid Bergman) falling as gently as the drizzle on that forlorn airstrip in World War II Morocco, leaving us never knowing just who "the usual suspects" were.

Were they members of the French resistance? Not likely. More probably they were the "Moros" or the Moroccans who had come to accept being rounded up for whatever reason, and were probably too afraid or to ignorant to resist, much less to question why.

Since movie fiction is based on the facts of life, although many do insist, and rightly so, that life imitates art, still it can be said that so was it then, there, in the time-place setting of the movie; so is it now, here. And, one may surmise, in many other places in the world where there is a religious or cultural minority.

In the wake of the worldwide hunt for the perpetrators of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, there is no worse identity than that of being Middle Eastern and Muslim. Not only are they liable to be arrested and detained on mere suspicion, they are also the current pariah of the global society.

Here in our country, there is no worse identity than being Moro and Muslim (being of Middle Eastern descent and looking it may be just as bad), because that, *ipso facto*, makes you one among the usual suspects, not just now, but ever since the cross and the crescent came to meet in these tropical isles halfway around the world from their common Middle Eastern origins.

Recent events, from the railway bombings to the renewed crackdown on Abu Sayyaf suspects and sympathizers, and now the "war without borders" being waged against the worldwide Web of Osama bin Laden, are especially alarming because they have been cause for law enforcement operatives to summarily pick up Muslims, whether they are in Mindanao or Metro Manila. While some of these rounding-up sprees have admittedly turned up a few hits, in many cases they were embarrassing misses—innocent people who were just going about their business, some even complaining of evidence planted against them. But who cares? They are just Muslims anyway.

Many of these victims are too poor or feel too timid to even avail themselves of legal assistance, and wind up in the detention until they are released according to the whims of the authorities, although there are a few—like in recent case—who are wealthy enough to bail themselves out with cash and/or in kind. Arrest now and ask questions later, seems to be the rule by which some law enforcement agents operate.

Such harassment has caused untold grief and humiliation to victims of raids and arbitrary arrests, not to mention what they may be subjected to while in detention.

But what many don't seem to realize is that the Muslims themselves are both the primary and consequential victims of whatever a minority of them commit. The many Muslims now spread all over the country from Zamboanga to Aparri are not adventurers suddenly struck with lovelessness for their hometowns. They are, in truth, refugees.

They are those who tore themselves away from their places of birth, from all that was familiar and dear, to venture, virtually, into the unknown. And indeed it takes courage of the most foolhardily kind to start a new life in a strange, sometimes hostile, cultural environment, to learn to communicate in that environment and establish relations, with the hope of assimilating themselves into the majority, enough the ensure reasonably normal lives. Why? For one simple reason. To live in peace.

They were those whose homes and means of livelihood were burned and bombarded as part of the collateral damage of the Mindanao conflict. They whose lands were devastated, whose kith and kin were blown to smithereens by strafing and shelling; who were shot on sight by armed men on both sides, who were arrested, detained, and even tortured, often for no other reason than just being in the way, as the government went on an all-out offensive against the MILF and the Abu Sayyaf.

And they were those who could no longer endure living in fear from day to day because of kidnappings and extortions, grenade-throwing and sudden killings.

None but those who have lived in Mindanao and Sulu these years of living very dangerously can know how utterly depressing and debilitating constant and continuing fear, anxiety and sense of uncertainty can be. At its most severe, it can paralyze you into catatonia.

They who for some compelling reason—masochism could be one—chose to stay, are still living that kind of non-life.

None more than those who have suffered as much can want peace as much. None more than they would want to see the perpetrators of their sufferings get their just rewards; not later, but right now, right here on this earth.

To inflict more suffering they are lumped together as the usual suspects, while their tormentors are out there having coffee with some law enforcers and laughing all the way to the bank and media exposure. But they are treading on very, very dangerous ground.

For Muslims in general, a feeling of alienation toward the government is almost congenital. This has not been eased any by the mostly justified perceptions of discrimination and prejudice, even hostility that they feel they are subjected to in almost all aspects of their daily lives.

No, we have not yet seen signs that read "Dogs and Muslims not allowed," but if we don't watch out in this current widespread anti-Muslim sentiment, we may yet get there. Should that happen, may God have mercy on our nation.

Islam, like Christianity, must accept democracy

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

AMERICAN officials are taking great pains to emphasize that the war on terrorism is not a war on Islam. For example, in revealing a handwritten letter of instructions and religious exhortation linking three of the suspected suicide bombers, the US defense secretary pointedly called the militant Muslim extremism that inspired it, a "perversion of Islam," repeating President Bush's earlier use of the phrase.

Such diplomatic tiptoeing through the minefields of cultural and religious sensitivities, is necessary for two important reasons. First, a worldwide coalition against terrorism cannot be built without the Muslim nations. Secondly, America cannot lead the war effectively, if racial and cultural prejudice erupts at home against Muslim minorities. To keep its moral mantle of leadership in the fight against terrorism, the United States must uphold the secular nature of its own constitutional democracy and demonstrate strict adherence to its laws and principles.

I suppose it is also a wondrous sign of how deeply we have drunk from the well of peace for humanity that most commentators here are disinclined to characterize the present conflict as war between religions, or even as a "clash of civilizations." By taking this approach, one can join in the nearly universal condemnation of the mass murderous *means* adopted by the terrorists, without necessarily rejecting the *end* by which they have lethally and fallaciously justified them. That end is not at all the kind of liberal democratic society that we all want, but a repressive throwback such as what we see in Afghanistan, which sees God as having "enemies" for whose defeat he needs the help of "true believers," something they may have learned from the Christians.

Most of the published opinion against American policy focuses instead on the proximate causes of Muslim resentment toward America: its support for the state of Israel, its policies and behavior in the Middle East, which are seen as one-sidedly against the Arabs, and the triumphalism of American society as the only superpower since the Cold War ended. It is an approach that allows some to continue to vent anger at American colonialism for our own sorry path in history.

It is a politics of resentment that leads many to a false kind of intellectual neutrality, (the same kind that many non-Jews adopted in Germany before the Nazis went after them too). It is a position that points to the sins on both sides and so, muddles the clarity of what is right and wrong, what is good and evil in this conflict. But even a spectrum of gray, contains black and white ends that must be clearly appreciated if reason and virtue are to guide our choice of the means for achieving them.

Perversely, some actually seem glad about what has happened, gleefully suggesting that "America had it coming." For example, Luis Jalandoni, the remote-control spokesperson of the CPP/NPA/NDF, was holding forth on the ANC channel last Thursday afternoon, on how his own murderous movement does not have to reject "political assassinations" because it only engages in "arrests" ordered by the "revolutionary justice system." Maybe he means the same kangaroo courts that caused his movement to eat hundreds of its own children in the late '80s. Like Iraq and Iran, our own communist ayatollahs refuse to unequivocally condemn the carnage, and choose instead to justify it. They too believe that the end justifies any means and have resorted to them in the past.

I think that subsequent events, including copycat actions by our own terrorists, Muslim or not, will force us to drastically revise this falsely solomonic point of view. We shall come to see that what is unfolding is a real clash of ideologies between the secular and humanist conception of an open democratic society, and the kind of closed oppressive society that Osama bin Laden and militant Islamic fundamentalism stand for. What is really at stake, is whether or not we are willing to fight for the possibility that the kind of society that exists in America, with its unprecedented and unparalleled religious, social, economic and political liberties, will be established everywhere in the world.

Islam, like Christianity and Judaism before it, must finally bow to democracy's separation of Church and State, to render unto Caesar what is Caesar's before satisfying Allah. That is the principal historical imperative now if Islam is to survive and thrive.

Insisting that the war on terrorists, who also happen to be Islamic religious fundamentalists, is not a war on Islam as such, is an extraordinarily difficult tightrope act, when one considers the broad of sweep of history of the last two thousand years. If there has been a superpower rivalry during this expanse of time, it would have to be the ancient enmity between Christendom and Islam. Although the Holy Roman Empire gave Christianity a taste of widespread supremacy during the first half of the first millennium, a large chunk of this period, namely between the 7th and the 17th centuries, was really the Golden Age of Islam. During that millennial stretch, Islam was supreme from Vienna to Java, and the keeper of humanity's light. Especially during what Christians call the Dark Ages, it was Islam that preserved much of the ancient human knowledge in mathematics, astronomy, medicine, music and literature. Islamic societies of this period, grew and flourished, while Christian Europe descended into barbarism.

But that golden age is long past. Western exploration, technological innovation and imperialism pushed back the Muslim empire and established the dominance of the "Judeo-Christian tradition." More to the point, superior models of successful human societies have been evolved, namely liberal, constitutional, tolerant, humane democracies. In particular, societies in which organized religion is deprived of the State's coercive powers, have been demonstrated to be the best way that everyone's religious freedoms can be preserved, along with more mundane liberties.

War is as reprehensible a means of achieving our ends as it has always been. An anti-war movement like that of the Vietnam War era is bound to arise, probably first within the United States itself. This too, would be a blessing of democracy. Yet, there are higher causes than peace and nonviolence, which are freedom and democracy. Sometimes war is the only way to a lasting peace. Even the terrorists agree. So be it.

'Tabloid news is not front page material'

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

LITTLE things mean a lot. Be careful with what you feature at the front page.

These seem to be the messages reader Crispin Peralta Jr. wanted to convey to the INQUIRER when he complained about the contents of the Sept. 11 front page.

Like the preceding days, that issue was replete with stories about the terrorist attacks that hit the United States recently. A news item with local flavor appeared at the right hand portion at the top of the page entitled "Seer sees bombs on country A."

It recounted the prediction of alleged seer Madame Auring that the United States will soon bomb countries starting with the letter A or I and that Japan will suffer the same experience the United States went through last Sept. 11.

The reader wrote: "Is such an article worthy of a front page appearance? **This is tabloid stuff!** To feature a prediction by the infamous Madame Auring, whose prediction prowess leaves a lot to be desired, is totally not amusing. **This is not news!**

"I wonder, she 'sees' bombs hitting country A, why, in the first place, she did not 'see' the bombing of the WTC? Even a non-'seer' would tell you what that country A is. I don't need a front page Madame Auring feature to tell me that. This is disgusting!

"I can't control my exasperation that INQUIRER has given prominent space, front page at that, for such a stupid article. An article, I believe that the like of People's Tonite would surely feature, but definitely not the INQUIRER. And yet you placed the article on Bin Laden's sleepers on page A6?

"Talk about newsworthiness. If the objective was to entertain us, readers, well, I definitely was not! By the way, while INQUIRER is at it, might as well sponsor a symposium of some sort for all those Quiapo seers and get their predictions, too."

Tongue in cheek

According to the editor who helped layout the front page of that issue, the staff was aware the Madame Auring story was the kind of stuff that can make the readers' eyebrows rise. It is common knowledge that the beautician-turned-seer, or vice versa, is famous for her "unbelievable or outlandish" predictions.

So why, in spite of that reputation, was the story given front-page treatment? Because the editors wanted to lighten the depressing news of that day. If only for a few minutes, they wanted to give the readers a break from the stories of death, destruction and despair that have dominated the media for days.

The fact that a cartoon (showing the INQUIRER carabao mascot guessing that the country A that may be bombed could be Argentina, Australia and Antarctica) accompanied the news indicates that it was not meant to be taken seriously.

The subliminal message was "don't believe in predictions." And an effective way to impart that message to an audience that has been bombarded by doomsday scenarios and alleged Nostradamus prophesies is to come up with a tongue-in-cheek story of a seer whom many consider as nothing but a publicity hound.

With regard to the question of why the article on Osama bin Laden's "sleepers" was placed at the inside pages, the reason given was it was meant to be a "sidebar" or an article that will supplement the story that started at the front page then was continued elsewhere in the newspaper.

The sidebar, which was given a darker shade to make it stand out, was not placed at the front page because it would make the page text heavy, meaning, full of editorial materials. Some room had to be made for color photos to make the page balanced and pleasing to the eye.

I appreciate the perspective from which the reader read and interpreted the Madame Auring story. He is entitled to his opinion. But from where I sit, I don't find anything wrong with the story. It was an attempt at humor which some enjoyed while others did not.

My only misgiving was Madame Auring's photo was not included in the news. I would have had an idea of the person who made me laugh and momentarily forget the problems of the world.

Gory photos

The handling by US media of the Sept. 11 tragedy was the subject of Magno Sibulan's letter. He found remarkable in the coverage of the event "that they never PRINT nor SHOW pictures of DEAD BODIES of people who were rescued out from the rubble. CNN showed some injured person but just for a second or two, not did they sensationalize on this.

"These are in contrast on how our media (including the INQUIRER) cover tragedies that happen in our country. For instance, my children and I were, in fact, traumatized by the pictures of dead people—mutilated and burned—in the front page of one INQUIRER Sunday issue regarding the Manor Hotel tragedy. I regretted buying the INQUIRER on that particular day.

"Why in the world did you allow the pictures to be printed in a front page at that? Do the editors see us as brutal that we still have to see in details the pictures of the dead and beloved bodies in our newspaper? It does not show any respect for the dead. It could also traumatize the family.

"I beg you to stop the practice of sensationalizing the dead and gory details of every tragedy that befall us. Let INQUIRER be a pioneer in giving hope amid horrors in our national scene. Try to follow the media in the United States by showing only the heroism of the rescue workers, and the hope of recovery after every tragedy. Stop showing DEAD BODIES of people taken from the rubble. It makes us sick."

The issue of whether or not it is proper for the newspaper to publish explicit photos of dead or seriously injured victims of tragedies had been discussed several times by the editors during the regular Monday editorial assessment meetings.

Those who believe those kind of pictures deserves front-page treatment argue that the publicity is needed to call the attention of the public to the brutal results of some man-made incidents. They hope the shock treatment will jolt the reader or government leadership into doing something to prevent the recurrence of the violent incidents.

On the other hand, those opposed to that approach hold the view that the message sought to be imparted can be conveyed without making the reader's stomach turn or ruin their day. Nothing is accomplished if in reaction to the repulsive pictures the readers throw away the newspaper instead. There are other means available, outside of shocking photos, to catch the attention of the public and government officials.

I support the latter position. While it is true the INQUIRER is obliged to report the events as they happen and, where appropriate, illustrate them with photos, it is equally its responsibility to take into consideration the possible adverse emotional or psychological effects of its actions on the readers.

A newspaper does not thrive in a vacuum. It exists for the benefit of the readers and the public in general. If the newspaper loses its readership or its readers are repelled by what they see or read in the newspaper, then the purpose for which it exists is lost.

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The *Readers' Advocate*" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City." Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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What Acop's damning testimony demands

THE SENATE need not go beyond the testimony and documents submitted by Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop to appreciate the appalling reality that the country was in the grip of drug lords during the incumbency of Joseph Estrada. Under examination by Senators Joker Arroyo, Aquilino Pimentel and Renato Cayetano, Acop's credibility crumbled like termite-riven lumber. His own documents and testimony incriminated him more than Mary Ong's and Ador Mawanay's combined. Sen. Rodolfo Biazon provided comic relief with his protest over violation of Philippine sovereignty by US Customs officials.

Acop asserts that they allowed the drug web to proliferate because they were monitoring the movements of the Hong Kong triad. It could well be that they were nursing a monstrous milking cow. He would not disclose the names of Philippine officials protecting drug traffickers and would not voluntarily offer transaction records of his questionable bank account. The Senate should not relent in its effort to extract the information from Acop. This is the appropriate time for the Senate to exercise its power to compel uncooperative witnesses to disclose information under pain of indefinite detention (Jean Arnault 50 years ago).

The Senate cannot now just limit its inquiry in aid of legislation. The country is under siege. The Senate must exhaust all its resources and powers to crush this drug menace by any means at the conclusion of their hearing. This can no longer be left to the courts to resolve, seeing their vulnerability to defendants with money to throw away. Witness the audacity of high-profile personalities challenging their accusers to take their cases to court, confident that they may buy time or acquittal.

Within their ranks, the senators must subject their colleagues under a cloud of suspicion requiring the most thorough scrutiny. The power and influence of a senator's office must not be prostituted to serve a terrible threat to the country. They cannot be spineless and feign an atmosphere of civility in the Senate chamber if colleagues are under investigation for moving millions of dollars across the US/Canadian border or allocating their CDF to fund drug deals.—**E.P. DAKANAY JR. 43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Vill., Pamplona, Las Piñas City**

LETTERS

A question of qualification

I REFER to the letter of Mr. Gil Valera concerning the questions raised about his appointment as deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Customs last Sept. 22, 2001entitled, "It's a question of confidence."

Mr. Valera refers to Ms Emma Rosqueta as an "appointee of President Joseph Estrada," insinuating that Ms Rosqueta was a political appointee who did not deserve her appointment as deputy commissioner of the Bureau of Customs, a career executive position. Mr. Valera says: "Now that President Macapagal has made her choice as to who should be the deputy commissioner, the Estrada appointee who is not a Ceso eligible should also give way to the desire of the President."

Mr. Valera completely misses the point. Security of tenure is granted to career executives in the service of the government precisely to avoid the evils of the spoils system that regards positions in the government as rewards for political opportunists.

Unlike Mr. Valera, Ms Rosqueta is not a political appointee. I have known Ms Rosqueta since 1954 and I can vouch for her integrity and competence as a Bureau of Customs official. She has devoted nearly 40 years of her life to the Bureau of Customs, rising from the ranks to the second highest position in the bureau on the basis of merit and fitness. She holds the equivalent of four first grade civil service eligibilities as a lawyer, a certified public accountant, a customs appraiser and career service professional. She is also a licensed customs broker who garnered first place in the customs broker examination. These, plus her 40 years of actual experience in the Bureau of Customs, are more than enough to qualify her for the position of deputy commissioner.

Under the rules and regulations of the Career Executive Service Board, which is the government office that administers the Ceso examination, an appointee to a career executive position who is already 55 years old need not take the Ceso examination. Ms Rosqueta was 59 years and eight months old when appointed as deputy commissioner. Unlike Mr. Valera, she is not required to take the Ceso examination to be entitled to security of tenure.

Mr. Valera ends his letter with these words: "If the President no longer has confidence in me, I will certainly respect the decision and pack up my things and just go back to law practice. In the meantime, I will continue to work hard for the administration." Perhaps, this is the root of Mr. Valera's problem: he swears to work hard only for this administration whereas career service officers are supposed to serve the country, not just the current political ruler. In the case of Mr. Valera, it's a question of political servility.—**BENNY P. DE GUZMAN, 377 Columbia St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City**

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FUNCTION DESCRIPTION:

MODEL	PK-2200A
TYPE	AUTO SENSOR
HEATER	2KW
WIND VELOCITY	15.5M/SEC
WIND VOLUME	4.8M³
DIMENSION(MM) L*W*H	304X220X175
MOTOR START	0.6 SECONDS
	AFTER SENSORING
N.W./G.W (KGS)	5.5/6.5
RPM	3600 AT 60HZ 2850 AT 50HZ

ABSOLUTE SAFETY DESIGN:
1. MOTOR DESIGNED WITH 100C THERMOSTAT
2. HEATER DESIGNED IN 141 C THERMAL CUTOFF & 67°C THERMOSTAT
3. MOISTURE PROOF. ELECTRICITY LEAKAGE PROOF

CHARACTERISTICS:
1. TIMER ADJUSTABLE FROM 30 SEC. TO 60 SEC
2. ADJUSTABLE SENSOR DISTANCE FROM 10C TO 30CM NORMALLY PRESENT AT 15-20CM
3. AIR OUTLET TEMPERATURE 55° + 3°C
4. AUTO SENSOR CUT OFF WITHIN 2 MINUTES
5. PAINTED DIECAST ALUMINUM HOUSING FOR LONG LASTING SURFACE

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FUNCTION DESCRIPTION:

MODEL	HK-1800DA
TYPE	AUTO SENSOR
HEATER	1700W
WIND VELOCITY	15.50M/SEC
WIND VOLUME	27.6M³/h
DIMENSION (MM) L*W*H	170X249X220
MOTOR START	0.6 SECONDS AFTER SENSORING
N.W./G.W (KGS)	5.4Kg/5.7Kg
RPM	3450 @ 60HZ 2850 AT 50HZ

ABSOLUTE SAFETY DESIGN:
1. MOTOR DESIGNED WITH 105°C THERMOSTAT
2. HEATER DESIGNED IN 141°C THERMAL CUT OFF & 70°C THERMOSTAT
3. MOISTURE PROOF, ELECTRICITY LEAKAGE PROOF

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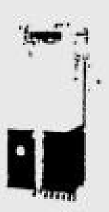

Clean our own backyard first

ALL the talk floating all over as to whether or not we should send our soldiers abroad to fight against terrorism are, to my mind, nothing but knee jerk reactions at this time anyway.

So far, all the talks are mostly symbolic—more for global solidarity against terrorists.

Personally, I agree with this plan one way or another. But please, our law enforcers must do some house-cleaning first.

Put in jail some of our politicians who have been coddling terrorists and are terrorists themselves, public officials who are plunderers and executioners in powerful positions.

People with shady characters whose criminal nature remains concealed from the public must be unmasked and apprehended. Politicians who use the underworld to "operate" for them must also be rounded up.

It would be a big help to the world community now fighting together against terrorism if the Philippines could be made a safer place to live in by ridding it of a larger crop of our homegrown criminality.

Many foreigners have already died in our shores and if only we can help protect the lives of both foreigners and locals—that in itself would be our great contribution to humanity and to world peace.

Offhand, that would be the best thing we can do to help maintain peace in this part of the world.

Ayusin muna natin ang sarili nating bakuran... But should a small, symbolic contingent of soldiers for peace-keeping mission be needed from us, by all means, send some of our soldiers to participate in this effort.—**MANUEL L. MORATO, Doña Consuelo Bldg., 192-194 Tomas B. Morato Ave., Quezon City**

A perspective on the GMO debate

THE DEBATE on genetically engineered organisms in agriculture has reached a new peak with the recent flurry of statements from both sides of the issue. The Samahan ng Nagtataguyod ng Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Sambayanan (Agham), an organization of scientists, is making this statement to put forward our position as scientists and clarify certain issues related to genetically engineered organisms and its social impacts.

Recently, the Biotechnology Conference of the Philippines (BCP) and some newspaper opinion pages sought to limit the discussion on genetically engineered (GE) organisms to a purely scientific and technical debate. They brand those who oppose GE organisms as "parochial" and "selfish," blocking the national biotechnology agenda to the detriment of the Filipino people. On the contrary, limiting the issue of genetic engineering to a purely technical and scientific level is actually the narrow and myopic view of the issue.

Indeed there are concerns on the safety of these GE crops as raised by a group of scientists and we believe that to resolve this question, a more comprehensive study must be undertaken. We reject however the current field trials spearheaded by Monsanto aimed at the eventual commercialization of Bt-corn. In its stead, we propose the creation of an independent panel of scientists who would undertake the more comprehensive study that may include field-testing in carefully controlled conditions agreed upon by the team and the local community.

However, we would want to point out that even if the question of safety is finally resolved, the issue of who dictates and controls the use of this technology still remains. This is the core of our opposition. We oppose not the technology. We believe this should be left to the option of the Filipino people who should decide which technologies they should use depending on their needs, conditions and capacity. However, historically it has not been the Filipino people who chose technologies to use in agriculture. For example, in more recent history, the use of high yielding varieties (HYVs) in rice and pesticide and chemical fertilizer technologies in the Green Revolution did initially increase production but has led to a deeper dependence on these farm inputs. These farm inputs are under the development and control of the agrochemical multinational companies, who now transformed themselves as the "life-science" industry with modern biotechnology.

The claims of the agricultural biotechnology industry that only their products are needed to feed the world and the reechoing of this argument by the NCBP and the BCP is turning a blind eye to the realities that the majority of our farmers are in. In the Philippines, land is concentrated into the hands of a few landlord families while most farmers are landless or lack enough land to sustain their families.

Small farmers are not only dependent on the landed elite for land but pay a high land rent from the already meager harvest. They are also at the mercy of usurers who charge exorbitant interest rates for loans and merchants who underprice products they buy from farmers but overprice agricultural inputs they sell to farmers. The available agricultural technology also remains backward.

This is the main cause of food insecurity in our country. Genuine land reform is the answer to this problem. Only then can any kind of agricultural modernization program succeed in alleviating the poverty rife in our country and put us in a genuine state of food security and self-sufficiency.

Government policies only worsen the situation. The proposed privatization of the National Food Authority and the present liberalization of agriculture and trade under the so-called globalization only serve to weaken the already weak agricultural sector and strengthen dependence on huge agrochemical MNCs. This is in sharp contrast with the supposed biotechnology policy as pointed out by BCP. In that policy, the government should be the one to promote food security but their sincerity is in question with their conflicting policies and action. In the issue of field-testing by Monsanto, the government through their inaction or active complicity to allow these trials is indicative of their outlook in agriculture.—**GIOVANNI A. TAPANG, national chair, Samahan ng Nagtataguyod ng Agham at Teknolohiya Para sa Sambayanan, 132 B Matahimik St., UP Vill., Diliman, Quezon City**

PGI clarifies report

WE would like to issue a clarification on an article last Sept. 26, 2001 by Mr. Ronnel W. Domingo, regarding a supposed agreement between PowerCorp and National Power Corp. on the consolidation of Napocor's generation assets scheduled for privatization under the new Power Law.

We would like to clarify that we have no knowledge or participation in the talks cited by Mr. Domingo regarding the planned consolidation of the geothermal assets at Tiwi and Mak-Ban. And, in addition, that Power and Renewable Energy Corp., or PowerCorp, will be dissolved as a corporation.

The Philippine Geothermal Inc. has worked to provide geothermal energy to the country for over 30 years, and is currently in settlement negotiations with our customer, Napocor, over our service contract. As a pioneer and long-term partner in indigenous energy development, we are encouraged with the pronouncements of the new government leadership to settle our long-standing dispute with Napocor.

Finally, we wish to affirm our commitment to play an active role in a restructured power industry and the country's socio-economic progress.—**QUINTIN JOSE V. PASTRANA, senior associate, Commercial Affairs Department, Philippine Geothermal Inc., 12/F, Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Vill., Makati City**

Inadequate SSS pensions

I AM an SSS pensioner with SSS No. 03-010629-4, 82 years old and in ill health. I started paying my SSS contribution since 1957 when the Social Security System was created. I was then a third officer of Everret Steamship Corp. My contribution was P12 a month while the company's counterpart was P36 with a total of P48 a month.

At present I am receiving a monthly pension of P2,117.57 which is not even enough to buy my medicines. I have had four strokes with the last one only two months ago. What do we use for food and other daily needs?

We read in the newspapers that the SSS president is paid P100,000 monthly and the lowest paid SSS official gets P40,000. Then former President Joseph Estrada used the SSS funds for his own benefit and gained millions out of the sale of stocks. Then the SSS spent P3 million for Christmas celebration the past two Decembers. Can't they give a higher pension, say P10,000 a month? I know there are sufficient funds for this purpose from the millions in monthly contributions from members like me.—**MANSUETO S. CHUAN, 2 Ligaya St., Mandaluyong City**

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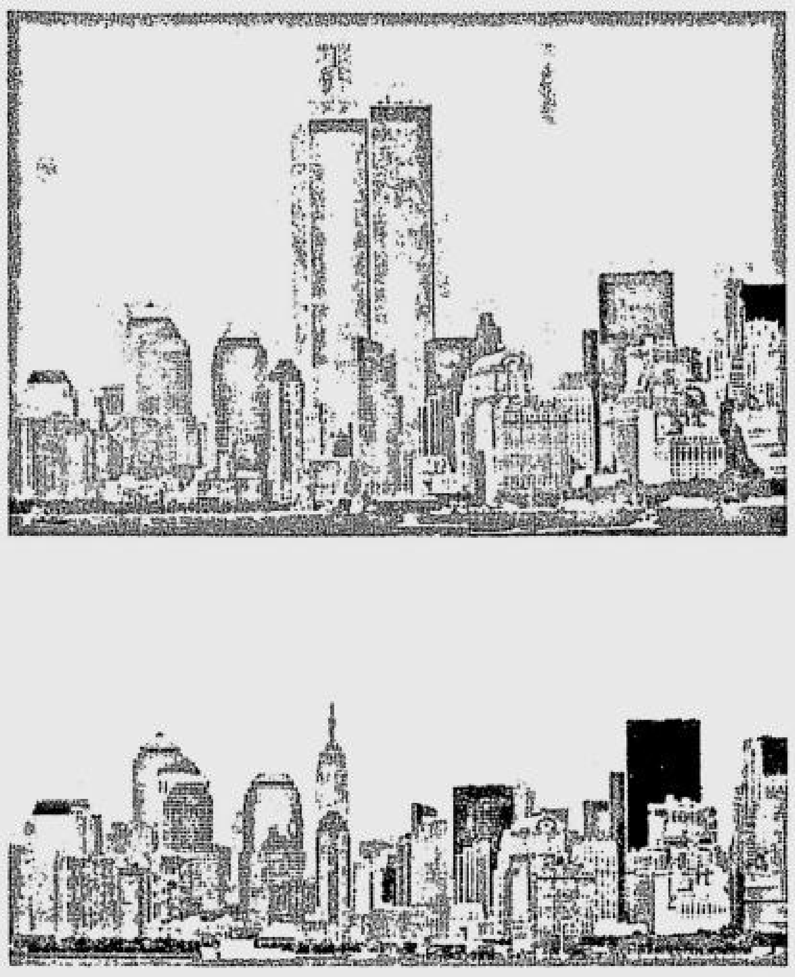
The WORLD

LUVERNE B. GUECO, EDITOR

Probers: Attacks cost half-million dollars



BEFORE AND AFTER: The lower Manhattan skyline in an Aug. 30, 2001 file photo with the World Trade Center towers at center and in a view taken from approximately the same spot last week with both towers missing after the Sept. 11 attacks.

WASHINGTON—The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks were financed with a $500,000 bankroll, a law enforcement source said Saturday as the FBI sent more agents to Germany in the search for masterminds of the plot.

FBI agents tracked the hijackers' bank accounts, their communications and their travel tickets as they followed a trail that could lead to a small group of chief plotters in Europe and the Middle East.

The FBI said it's pursuing more than 100,000 leads as agents narrowed their overseas search. Simultaneously in the US, more than 100 investigations were under way into alleged hate crimes against Arab-Americans.

The law enforcement source, speaking only on condition of anonymity, said the half-million dollars is all linked in some way to the plot. The Washington Post reported Saturday the FBI documented numerous large cash withdrawals and a long trail of hotels, rental cars and airplane trips.

The FBI has focused on Osama bin Laden sympathizers in England, Germany and the United Arab Emirates, authorities told the Associated Press. One official said more agents have been sent in recent days to Germany, where a cell of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network was said to be operating in Hamburg.

Time magazine reports in its issue on newsstands Monday that Mohamed Atta, a leader of the hijackers, received wire transfers of cash on Sept. 8 and 9 via a money service in Florida. It said FBI records showed the sender was Mustafah Ahmed, a suspected bin Laden financial operative in the Middle East.

While investigating some 120,000 tips sent to an FBI Internet site and toll-free hotline, laboratory specialists examined more than 200 submissions of evidence from the Pentagon, World Trade Center and western Pennsylvania crash sites of hijacked airliners. More than 106,000 leads have been generated by FBI field offices.

Along with the search for the terrorist plotters, the bureau said it was pursuing those committing alleged hate crimes in the United States.

More than 104 investigations were initiated, involving alleged attacks or threats against Arab-American individuals and institutions. *AP*

CIA tried to have Bin Laden killed, says NY Times

NEW YORK—The US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) started sending teams to Afghanistan three years ago in a bid to convince opposition forces to capture and maybe kill terror suspect Osama bin Laden, the New York Times reported on Sunday.

It said the CIA officers tried to work with Ahmad Shah Massood, the Northern Alliance leader who was killed two days before the September 11 attacks on US targets which Washington believes were masterminded by bin Laden.

The CIA believes Masood was killed by members of bin Laden's organization.

The US campaign against bin Laden intensified after the August 1998 bombings of two US embassies in East Africa, the New York Times said.

Following the bombings, US forces fired missiles at what they said was a training camp of bin Laden's al-Qaeda terrorist group.

Earlier this month, former US president Bill Clinton admitted that he had ordered bin Laden's capture and possible assassination after the 1998 bombings.

Clinton said that his administration also began training commandos for a possible ground assault targeted at Bin Laden, but that adequate intelligence and support from key international governments was lacking.

Bin Laden, a Saudi-born multimillionaire is believed to be in Afghanistan, where the ruling Taliban militia repeatedly said he would not be handed over to US officials. *AFP*

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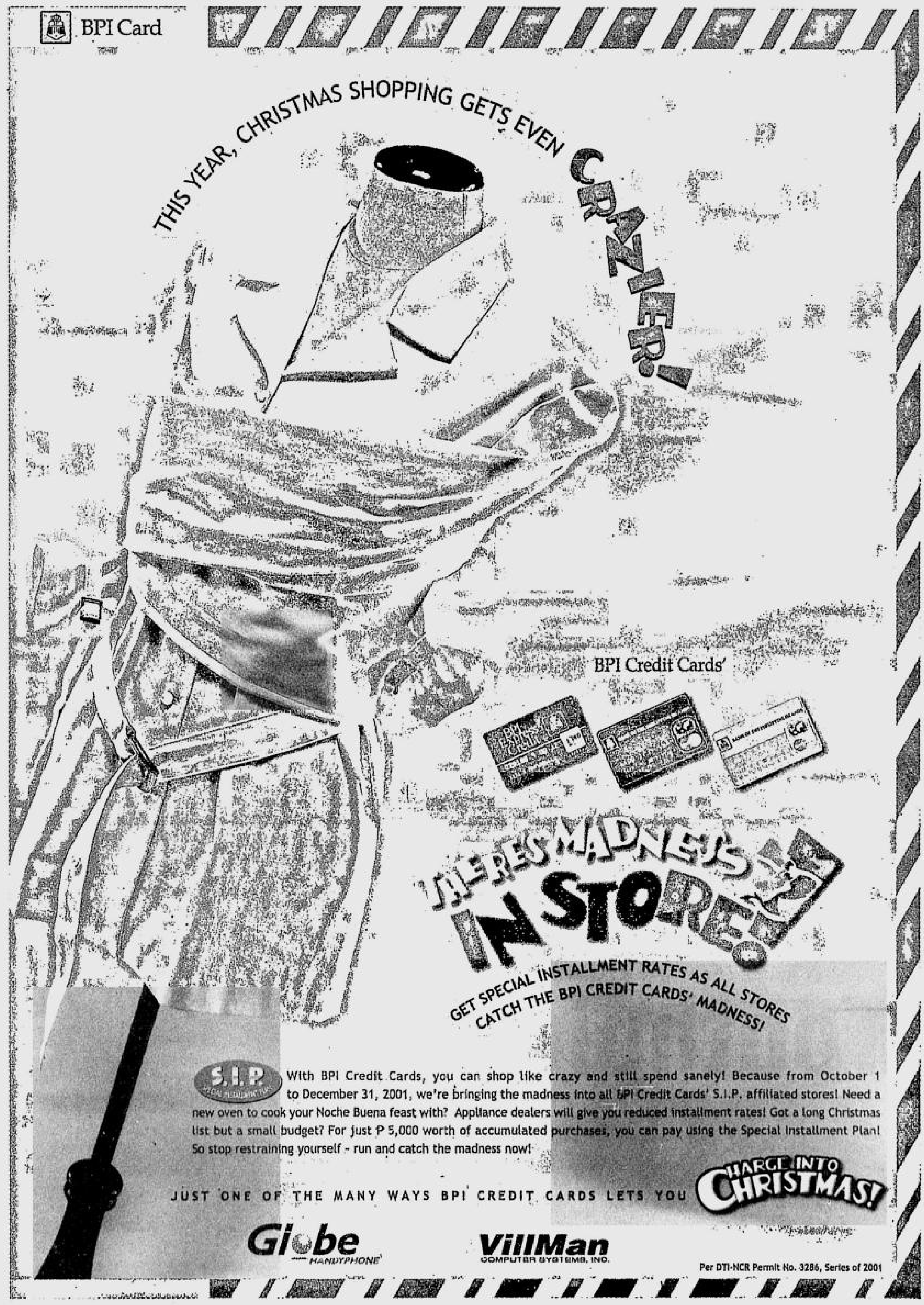

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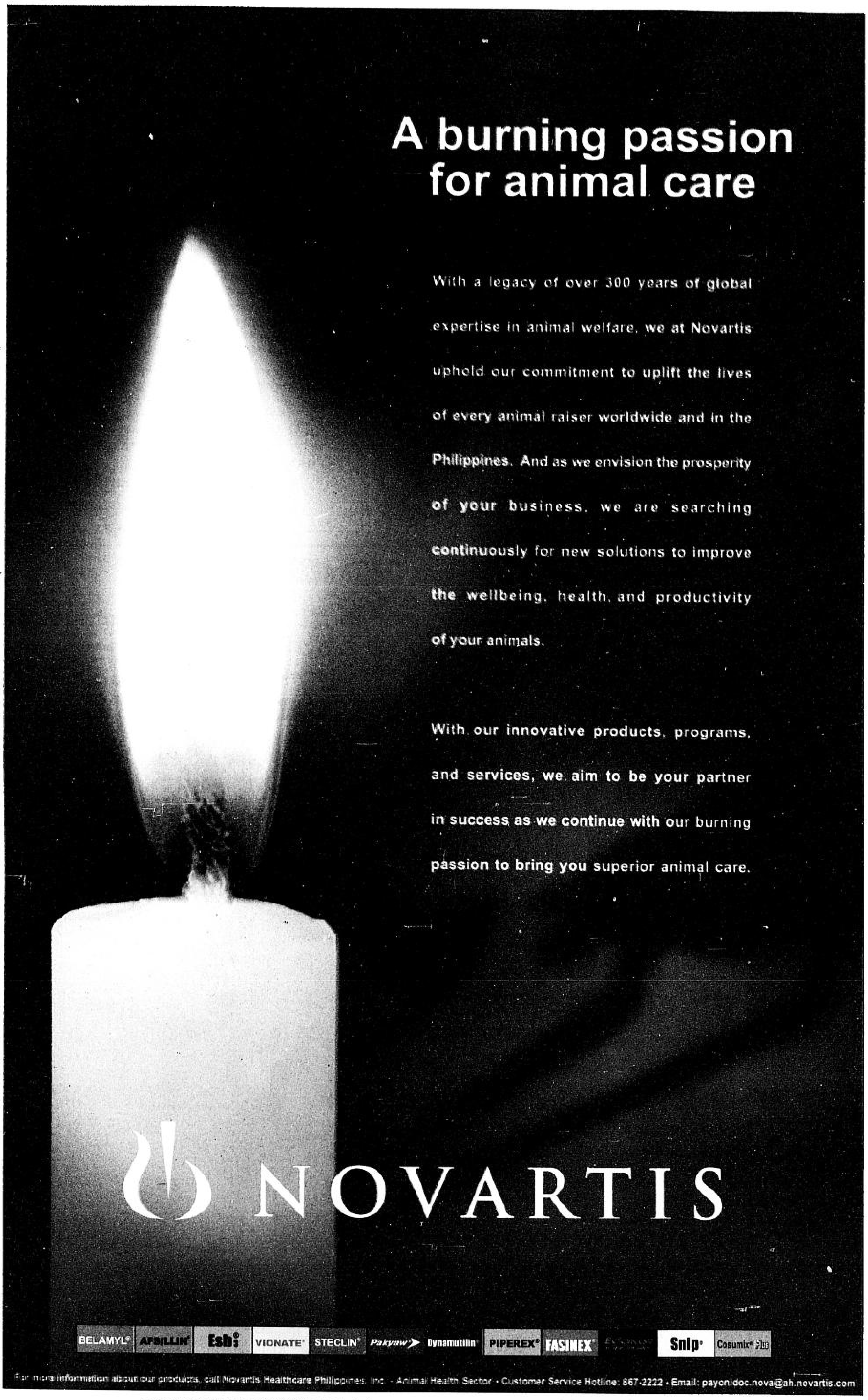

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US, Britain to strike within days, say reports

LONDON—The United States and Britain plan to attack bases controlled by Osama bin Laden, prime suspect of the terrorist assaults on New York and Washington, within 48 hours, newspapers reported here Sunday.

The Observer, quoting unidentified US and British sources, said the attack was designed to kill Bin Laden and would be carried out alongside strikes against air and ground forces of Afghanistan's Taliban regime.

According to the weekly, sources said that air and missile strikes could begin as early as Sunday and that US and British Special Forces would offer support in the attack.

The Mail on Sunday tabloid meanwhile quoted the military leader of Afghanistan's opposition Northern Alliance as saying that his men would launch a new offensive against the Taliban within two days and with the support of the US.

"We hope and believe our offensive, in a number of places throughout the country, will be backed by America attacking from the air," Soleh Muhammad Registani was quoted as saying.

The Observer also said that it had obtained crucial evidence linking bin Laden to the Sept. 11 strikes on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

It said it had seen a secret intelligence dossier compiled by an Arab state with a long-standing interest in Bin Laden, which revealed that at least one of the 19 hijackers involved in the terrorist attacks was trained by the Saudi-born militant's network, al-Qaeda. *AFP*

Money, food but no water for refugees

QUETTA, Pakistan—Even as money and relief materials pour into Pakistan, aid workers were struggling Saturday to find sites to shelter the huge influx of refugees expected to flee Afghanistan in the event of US attacks.

More than half of the $584-million appeal launched by the United Nations to avert a humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan has been earmarked for agencies handling the refugee situation.

But given the estimates that up to one million Afghans may try to cross into Pakistan, relief workers are desperately searching for habitable places to locate them in the border provinces of Baluchistan and Northwest Frontier Province.

"Right now, we're up against a monumental challenge," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesperson Peter Kessler.

"The simple fact of the matter is that there is no water. If the country is hit with a massive influx of refugees, it would be a logistical nightmare providing water," Kessler said.

"The money may be there, but we're not even sure if there are enough water tankers in the whole of Pakistan to deliver the necessary supply."

Baluchistan has suffered four years of consecutive drought, forcing up to 15,000 families to abandon their villages and take up a nomadic life in search of water.

The provincial capital of Quetta does not even have enough water for its own population and a recent government report went so far as to suggest the city would have to be abandoned by 2020 if the situation remained unchanged.

"There is virtually no rainfall and underground water supplies have dried up. We are already in crisis," said Mohammad Younis Khalid, spokesperson for the Baluchistan NGO Federation, which represents some 300 domestic non-governmental organizations.

Nearly all the 100 refugee camp sites proposed by the Pakistani authorities are right on the border with Afghanistan, where the water shortages are the most acute and where water tables have dropped to up to 303 meters below the surface.

So far, only two sites—abandoned refugee camps dating back to the era of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan—have been identified as suitable by aid agencies here.

Their total capacity would be little more than 20,000—roughly equivalent to the number of Afghans already believed to have gathered on their side of the closed border.

The reaction of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban regime to US threats of military reprisals over their refusal to hand over Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden has severely disrupted humanitarian work in the country, exacerbating the refugee situation. *AFP*

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Israel stands by truce despite rising violence

TEL AVIV—Israel's security cabinet has opted to push ahead with implementation of a ceasefire deal with the Palestinians, despite a weekend of raging violence that left almost a dozen Palestinians dead and scores more wounded, a senior defense official said Sunday.

"The cabinet decided to give this initiative another chance to show clearly who is for peace and dialogue," said Deputy Defense Minister Dalia Rabin-Pelossof on Israeli army radio.

The cabinet meeting chaired by right-wing Prime Minister Ariel Sharon gathered for four hours late Saturday to discuss the violence which left 11 Palestinians dead and scores injured since Friday, when a joint security session with the Palestinians was held.

That session was meant to mark the start of a period of calm after Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres agreed on a truce deal in a meeting last Wednesday.

But the start of the proposed period of calm also coincided with the first anniversary of the Palestinian intifada, or uprising, which has cost 840 lives.

Eighteen Palestinians, but no Israelis, have been killed since the Arafat-Peres meeting.

Israeli public radio said that as a first gesture of its backing for the truce deal, Israel was to ease the choking blockade it has maintained around the self-rule Palestinian town of Jericho to the southeast of Jerusalem.

Rabin-Pelossof reported 56 cases of attacks on Israeli forces, warning that "this continuation of violence by the Palestinian side makes the start of our troop redeployment more difficult."

"The United States, which has decided for its own reasons to court Yasser Arafat, asked us politely but very firmly to hold this meeting" with the Palestinian leader on Wednesday, she said.

US President George W. Bush wants a ceasefire in the Middle East to allow him to recruit Arab and Muslim states in his global anti-terrorism coalition, which is homing in on the radical Islamic regime in Afghanistan for a potential attack. *AFP*

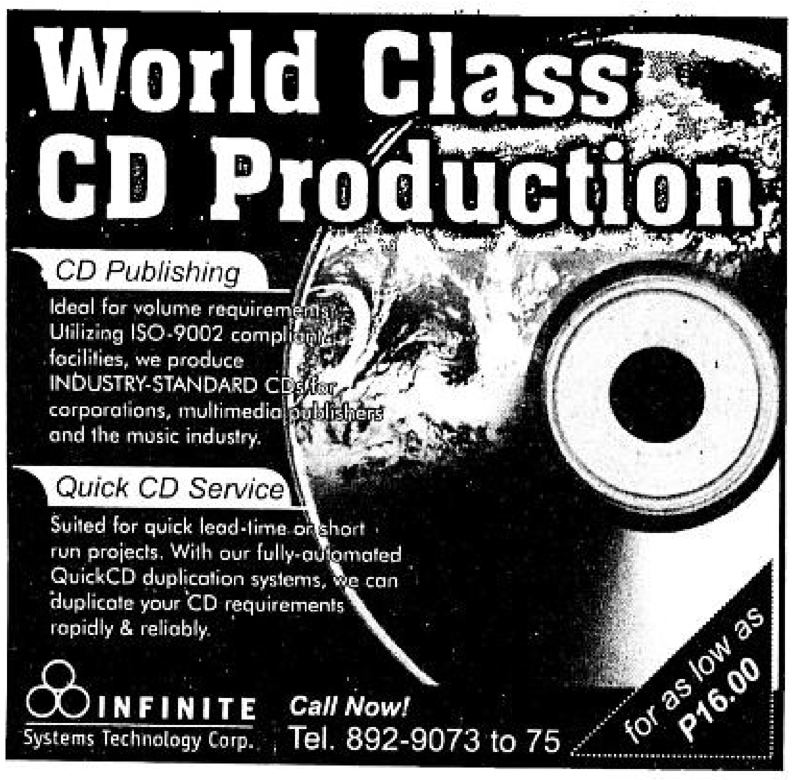
Peres convinced army chief wants to kill Arafat

JERUSALEM—Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres is "convinced" that deputy army chief General Moshe Yahalon wants to kill Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, the daily Yediot Aharonot reported Sunday.

The daily said Peres was certain Yahalon wanted to see Arafat liquidated, but the dovish left-wing foreign minister opposed any such move.

"Suppose we liquidate him, what will happen afterwards? In his place we will have Hamas or Islamic Jihad," he said in the paper, referring to two hardline Islamist groups which want to see Israel wiped off the map.

"Arafat recognizes the existence of Israel, he wants to talk to us and be accepted by the West, while the others (Islamists) would like to create a single state that stretches from Iraq to the Mediterranean," Peres said. *AFP*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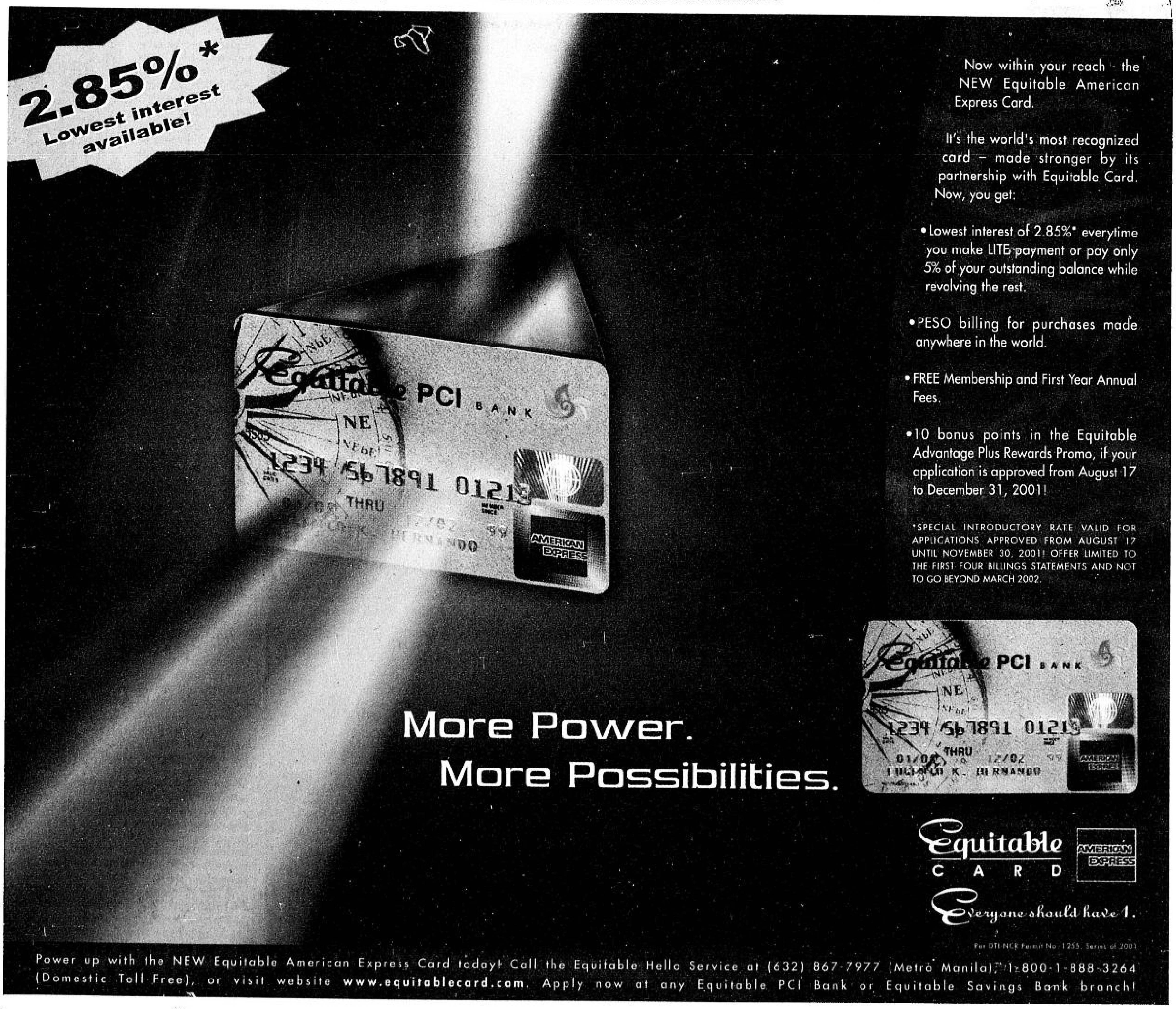
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PEOPLE holding tickets to the observation deck of the Empire State wait outside the building's main doors on 5th Avenue in New York City. AP

Tourists try Empire State

(From page A1)

disbelief at a ravaged skyline.

"I just don't know how it could happen here," said Joan Carroll, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, as she looked downtown at the gap where the World Trade Center stood. "It is sad. It's very sad."

Less than three weeks after terrorists slammed two hijacked planes into the 110-story twin towers, visitors at the Empire State said they were not worried about a terrorist attack at the midtown Manhattan landmark.

"We have to claim back what's ours," said Albert Fabrizio, 35, of Philadelphia. "We have to open the gates."

More than 500 tourists queued up by 10 a.m. to pass through an airport-style X-ray machine for the elevator ride upstairs, with building officials saying they expected 10,000 tourists Saturday.

A makeshift sign read, "No knives or cutting instruments of any length are permitted beyond security checkpoints."

The absence of the towers in lower Manhattan was painfully obvious from the deck, and a wisp of white smoke rose above ground zero. The Empire State's deck closed within hours of the Sept. 11 attack.

At the site of the trade center, workers continued digging out the 1.2 million tons of rubble left when the towers collapsed. The latest police figure showed 5,641 victims missing—down about 300 from Friday. As of Saturday, 309 bodies had been recovered, with 248 of them identified.

"The reality is we don't expect to find anyone alive," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said.

Crews were still demolishing the remains of the adjacent building at the World Trade Center on Saturday. City officials warned that other nearby buildings were unstable and may also need to come down.

Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem toured ground zero on Saturday, saying a prayer before leaving the site.

"Terror does not have a religion or a geography, just as it has no justification," said Cem, whose country is the only Muslim member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Nato). "The Turkish people stand together in our fight against terrorism."

The city's ban on single-occupant cars entering midtown or lower Manhattan was suspended for the weekend, but was expected to resume on Monday.

The Empire State Building's observation deck had reopened briefly for a trial period on Sept. 15. The observatory will be open again on Sunday, then close Monday through Friday and reopen for the Columbus Day holiday weekend.

The top of the building will remain illuminated in red, white and blue through the end of November. *AP*

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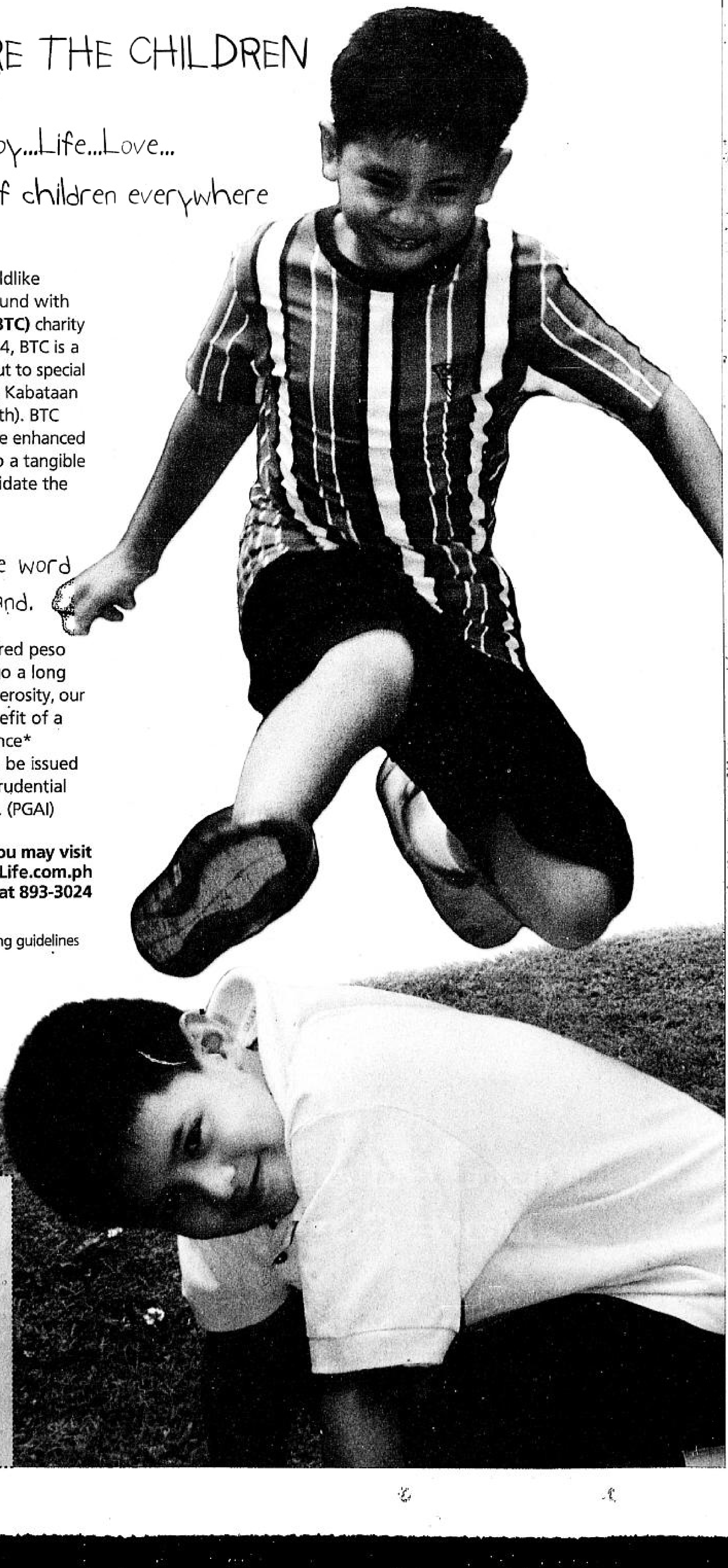

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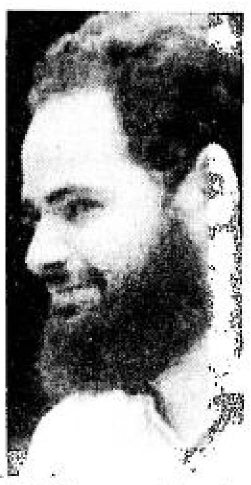
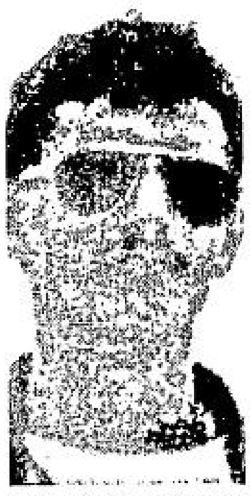
(From page A1)



ARAB mujahedin fighter: Monitored to have visited the MILF's Camp Abubakar from May to June 2000.



UNIDENTIFIED Malaysian: Said to be a close friend of an associate of convicted 1993 World Trade Center bomber Ramzi Yousef.

ently linking up with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Among these are an Arab mujahedin fighter *(Ed's note: Shown in photo with beard)*, who was monitored to have visited the MILF's Camp Abubakar from May to June last year at the height of the government's war with the secessionist group.

He later returned to Manila suffering from war shock, said the source.

Local investigators are also on the lookout for an unidentified Malaysian *(Ed's note: Shown in photo with sunglasses)* who is believed to be a close friend of Wali Khan Amin Shah, an associate of convicted 1993 World Trade Center bomber Ramzi Yousef.

The intelligence official, still quoting task force members, also confirmed that at least two of the convicted personalities in the 1998 bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were known to have stayed in the Philippines for some time.

The two terrorists, both members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida (The Base) network, were identified as Mamdouh Mahmud Salim, alias Abu Hader, and Mohamed Sadeek Odeh.

Salim, who was recruited by Bin Laden to al-Qaida, was in and out of Manila from 1996 up to 1998, according to the official.

He added that Salim was among those who planned the bombing of the US Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on Aug. 7, 1998—an attack that left 11 people dead and 80 others injured.

Records show that Salim was arrested by German police and security officials in September 1998 and was subsequently extradited to the United States where he was eventually convicted for the Dar es Salaam bombing.

Odeh, a militant Palestinian from Jordan, was known to have stayed in Davao, where he was photographed by intelligence agents in front of the house where he lived.

Suicide bombers

Odeh is believed to have planned and trained suicide bombers who attacked the US Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, on Aug. 7, 1998.

The attack, which was executed simultaneously with the Dar es Salaam bombing, resulted in 200 civilian deaths and the wounding of close to 5,000 people.

Reports from the JTTF said Odeh received terrorist training in Afghanistan before he joined Bin Laden's organization in 1992.

Odeh's first assignment was in Somalia where he reportedly trained mujahedin fighters who killed 18 American soldiers.

In Kenya, bankrolled by al-Qaida, he engaged in the fishing business and bought a seven-ton fishing boat. The proceeds of the business were later used to support fellow international terrorists based in the East African country.

A day before the Aug. 7, 1998 bombing of the US Embassy in Nairobi, Odeh fled to Pakistan, where he was arrested by Pakistani intelligence agents and later deported to the United States to stand trial.

Odeh was subsequently convicted and is now serving a life sentence for the Nairobi bombings.

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 24° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 21°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 24°
Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/10/01/01

ROUNDUP

Labor agreement signed

DAVAO CITY—Employees and officials of the Department of Labor and Employment regional office in Southern Mindanao have entered into a Collective Negotiation Agreement on Saturday. Erlinda Mamitag, president of the Association of Concerned Employees, branded the signing as "a dream come true for us." Although the DoLE employees belong to a national union, Mamitag said the CNA was designed for 96 employees of the regional office. Included in the package were a work education program, economic benefits, legal assistance and representation by the union in all committees of the DoLE regional office.

Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Dilangalen proclaimed

COTABATO CITY—A staunch supporter of ousted President Joseph Estrada in the last Congress was proclaimed anew as representative of Cotabato City and the first district of Maguindanao. Rep. Didagen Dilangalen was proclaimed Friday by Wynne Asdala, chair of the Maguindanao provincial board of canvassers. Dilangalen, who became known as *'Congressman Delay-galen'* for heavily opposing the Articles of Impeachment that paved the way for the ouster of Estrada, defeated lawyer Arnel Datukon of the Lakas-NUCD coalition. His now famous "point of order your honor," would once again be heard in the halls of Congress as he reports for session on Oct. 1.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Binga workers worried

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—In the face of privatization moves of the National Power Corp., 107 employees of the Binga hydroelectric plant here asked Gov. Raul Molintas to intercede so they could collect their separation pay and other benefits. The workers said they were worried about their status because of plans to again bid out the operation and maintenance of the Binga hydro plant to another contractor. They asked the Napocor to settle their unpaid claims before entering into a new service or rehabilitate-operate and lease contracts.

Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Halsema rehab project

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—The 720-million rehabilitation project funded by World Bank-International Bank for Reconstruction and Development of the Halsema Highway will start early November. Claude Allouche of the French-led consortium BCEOM, WB-IBRD's consultant, said the Korean firm Daewoo Engineering and Construction Corp. will implement the project when the rainy season is over. Allouche said they would focus on improving drainage, slope protection, road concreting and repairing of road surfaces. The project will be completed in January 2005.

Nathan Alcantara, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

School files charges

CALAMBA CITY—Officials of the University of Perpetual Help Rizal-Calamba Branch have filed charges of malicious mischief, robbery with physical injuries, and grave coercion against two teachers and 17 students, who have been suspended for protesting tuition increases and other irregularities. But the students said they should be the ones to file cases of frustrated murder or homicide, abuse of authority, and similar other charges against the officials. They said many of them were almost run over by a university truck and that guards and goons hurt them during the dispersal of their Aug. 9 assembly. The charges from UPHR have been filed at the Provincial Prosecution Office here.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Environment lessons

LEGAZPI CITY—Environment and education officials here have brought the campaign to protect the environment to elementary schools in the Bicol region. Department of Environment and Natural Resources Bicol executive director Oscar Hamada said pupils must be taught to realize that children like themselves, knowingly or unknowingly, misuse and overuse natural resources. DENR's campaign involves the inclusion of environmental protection education into the curriculum. The DENR and the Department of Education have produced instructional materials for Grade 6 science and health teachers.

Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Solon woos coco bloc

LUCENA CITY—Quezon Rep. Georgilu Yumol-Hermida has called on legislators from the country's coconut-producing provinces to form a nonpartisan "coconut bloc" in Congress to protect and promote the interest of the industry. The legislator argued that drastic measures are needed to address problems including "mono-crop farming, 1.5 trees cut every year, insufficient seedlings to replace millions of old and unproductive trees, inability of farmers to adopt new technologies, and the decline of coconut production every year."

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Chinese leaving dam site

COTABATO CITY—Chinese workers constructing portions of the Japanese-funded Malitubog-Maridagao irrigation project (Malmar) in Cotabato province have started leaving the project site even as one of their colleagues is still being held captive by bandits in Maguindanao.

An official of the China Electric Power Import-Export Inc. (Citec) told the Malmar monitoring and advisory group that they are revoking an earlier request to the government for them to be allowed to finish the project.

The official, who refused to be identified, admitted they have repeatedly asked Malacañang to allow them to complete the project in Barangay Kibenis, Carmen town, but that a serious security problem against the Chinese firm's employees forced them to leave.

The firm offered to complete the construction of dikes, lateral canals, bridges, pathways and electro-mechanical work on the P3 billion irrigating system that aims to benefit farmers in Cotabato and Maguindanao provinces.

"They cancelled earlier requests for another contract with the government," an official of the National Irrigation Administration told the INQUIRER during a recent meeting of the Malmar monitoring and advisory group in Kidapawan City.

Two Citec employees were killed on Aug. 19 by the Pentagon, an emerging kidnapping gang that claims to have connections with the Abu Sayyaf.

The kidnap gang executed Zhang Zhongquiang, an engineer, and Xue Xing, while another kidnap victim, Wang Li, was able to escape when government forces were closing in on their location in Sultan Kudarat province.

Zhongquiang's brother, Zhongli, is still being held captive.

Citec received P712 million for completing portions of the dam.

President Macapagal-Arroyo inaugurated the P2.5 billion dam on Sept. 22. When completed, the dam will irrigate 12,000 hectares of farmlands in Maguindanao and North Cotabato.

Engineers of the 602nd Army Engineering Brigade will complete the second phase of the dam, according to North Cotabato Gov. Manny Piñol, co-chair of the Malmar-monitoring advisory group.

Ms Macapagal has directed the Army to finish the project as soon as possible.

Army Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the moment Citec completes its movement out of the project site, Army engineers will immediately start work on the project's second phase. ***Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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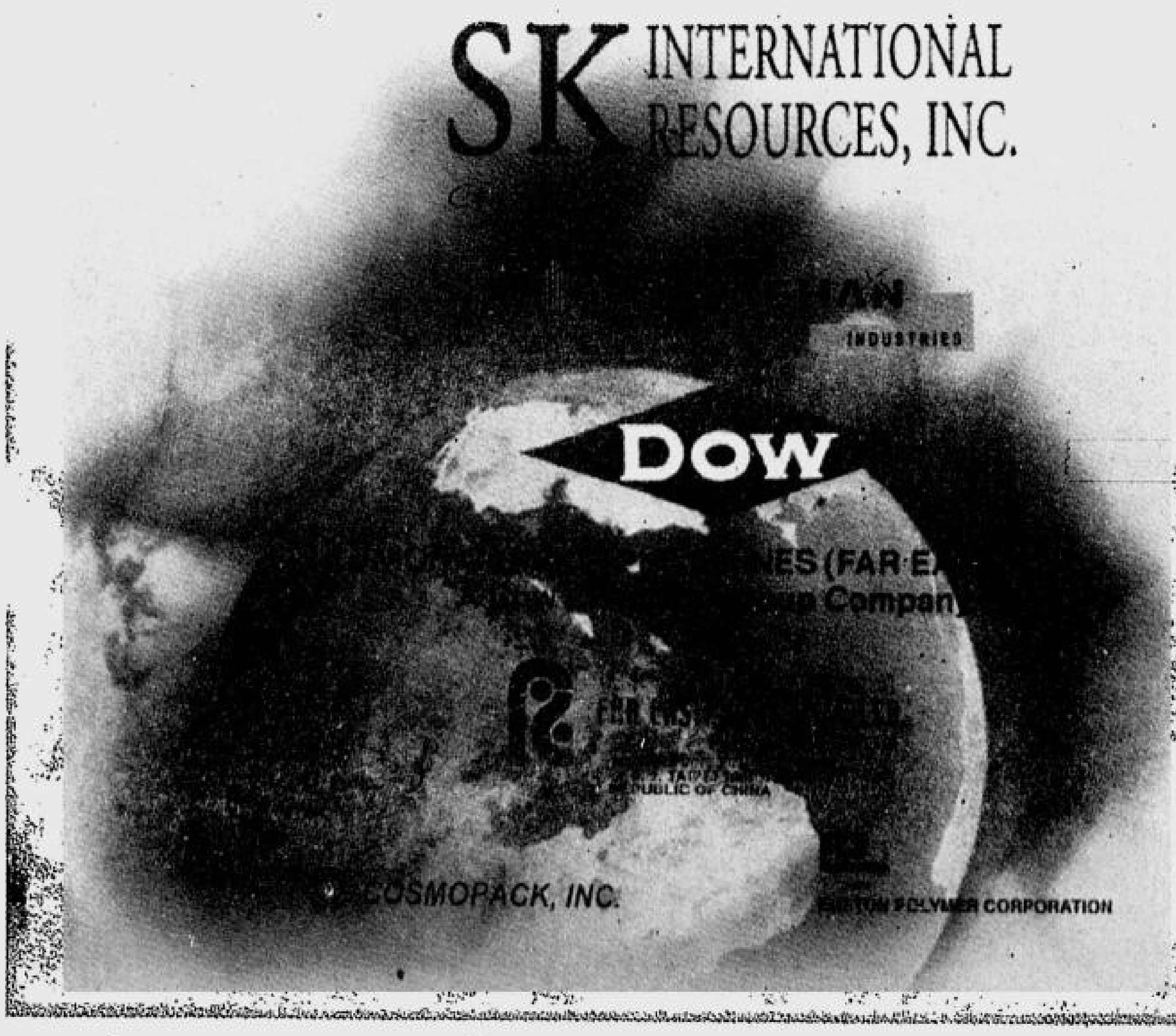

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300 casuals face layoff

COTABATO CITY—Some 300 casual employees of the city government will have to be terminated effective Oct. 1 because of fund shortage.

As if that was not bad news enough, Mayor Muslimin Sema also announced that several infrastructure projects have to be suspended due to the reduction of the internal revenue allotment (IRA) for the city by "more than P50 million."

Sema called an emergency meeting with city hall staff members and heads of offices, where it was agreed that a group of casual employees will be laid off for a certain period then rehired as another group is laid off.

Sema said this decision was arrived at so that the delivery of basic services is not affected.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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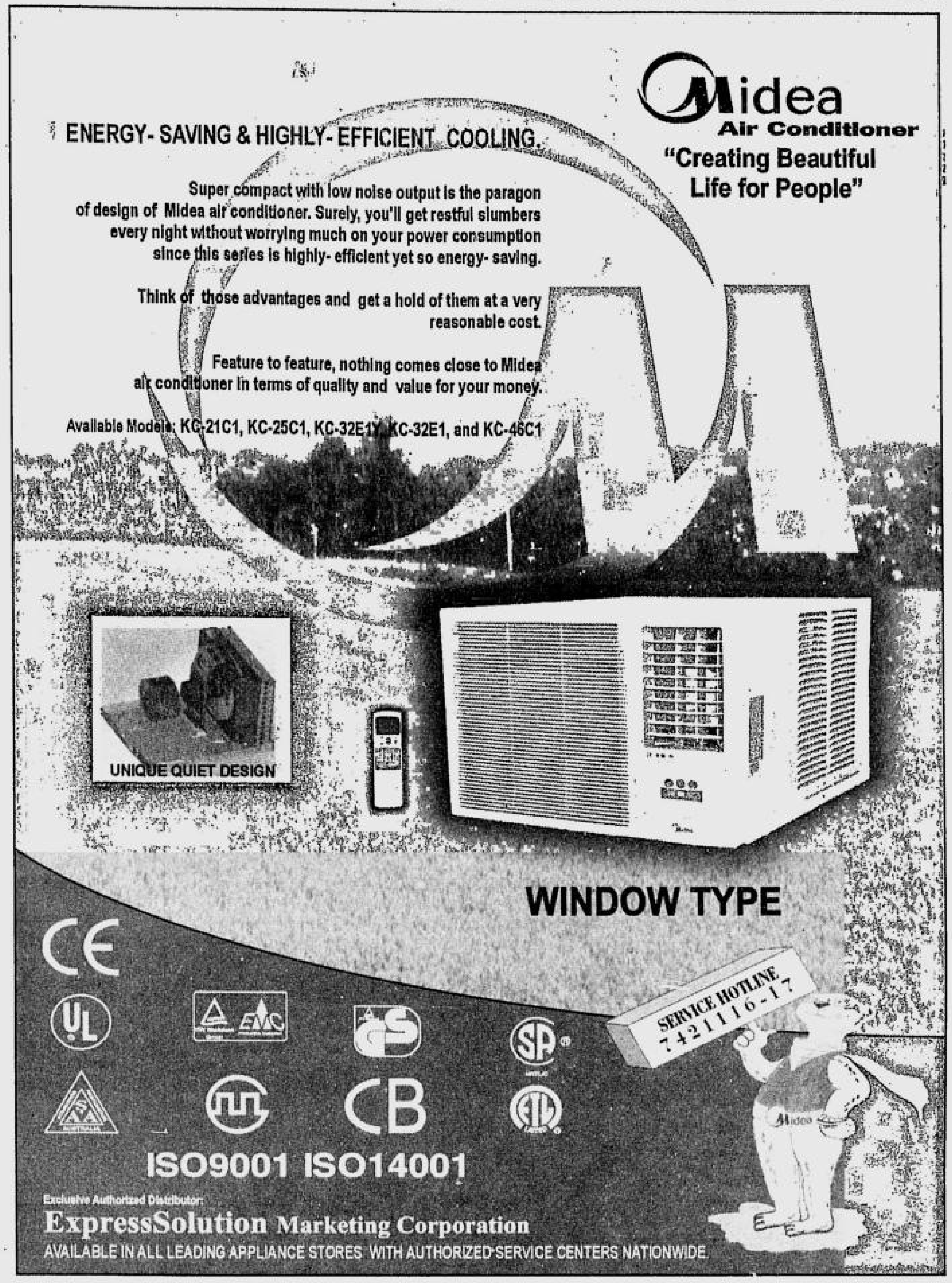

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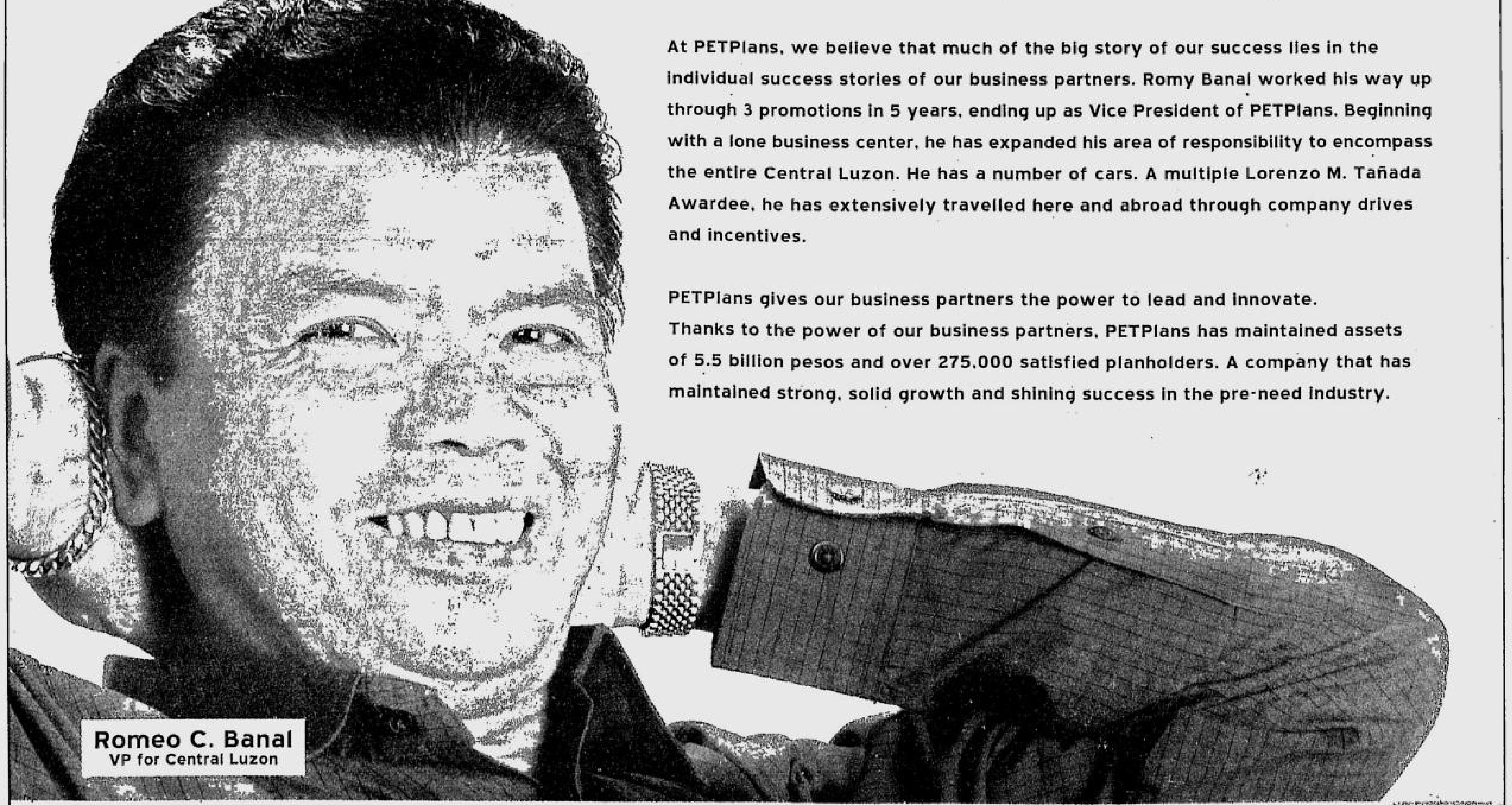

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Rural folk use more iodized salt, according to study

By Charlie Señase
PDI Mindanao Bureau

TACURONG CITY—Residents of rural areas here use more iodized salt than do people who live in urban areas, according to a recent survey.

The provincial government of Sultan Kudarat, with the collaboration of the Australian Aid for Development (AUSAID) and the United Nations Children's Fund, conducted a survey on the use of iodized salt among residents of the province and it turned out that people in the villages consume more of it.

Dr. Timoteo Molleno, Sultan Kudarat health chief, said that in the 11 towns of the province, one out of five households uses iodized salt for cooking.

Of that ratio, Molleno said, 19.6 percent constitute urban dwellers, while 22 percent were rural folk.

"This is so because a bigger number of health workers have been (sent to the) barangays and they are there to facilitate the sale and distribution of iodized salt," he said.

Congress has passed a law requiring salt manufacturers to put iodine in their salt.

During the term of former President Fidel Ramos, the government stepped up its campaign to promote the use of iodized salt.

Then health secretary Juan Flavier, now senator, had promoted the use of iodized salt.

Manufacturers supported the government campaign and some even came up with iodized salt brands that carried the President's first name, Fidel.

Zambo official sues former DENR chief, wife for plunder

PAGADIAN CITY—Ousted President Joseph Estrada's environment secretary Antonio Cerilles and his wife, Gov. Aurora Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur were charged with plunder and violation of the anti-graft law before the Ombudsman.

But a spokesperson for the Cerilles couple, said the charges filed by former provincial board secretary Anacleto Deliverio were highly malicious, lacked bases and were simple and plain harassment which were orchestrated by their political rivals.

Lawyer Domingo Redelosa IV, acting provincial legal chief of Zamboanga del Sur said Deliverio's charges are also "funny."

He even warned that Deliverio could be held liable for perjury if he fails to provide evidence that would support his charges.

"The case of plunder is a collective act such as malversation, bribery, indirect bribery or in other words ill-gotten wealth, but this is far from the truth," Redelosa said.

He instead urged Deliverio to find a good lawyer before pushing through with the plunder case because not doing so "would only make him appear like clown."

Deliverio said that in 1988, during his campaign for a House seat, Cerilles had only one car, an old model Toyota Land Cruiser.

He said the former environment secretary even went to the extent of pawning some pieces of property to finance his campaign then.

"But after more than 13 years," he said "(Cerilles) came to own the Baganian Broadcasting Corp. which operates the 10-kilowatt dxCA-FM radio station" and a number of other pieces of property.

When Cerilles was appointed environment chief by then President Estrada in 1998, Deliverio said he hired more than 200 contractual workers and consultants mostly from Zamboanga del Sur.

". . . a clear and callous case of plunder by unnecessarily spending taxpayers money just to accommodate his political protégées," he said in the complaint.

Also in gross violation of the anti-graft law, Deliverio said Cerilles hired several announcers from his radio station, paying them fat honoraria using DENR funds and that a number of DENR promotions and public affairs programs were aired over the same radio station and its affiliate "which were paid millions of pesos of DENR funds."

Deliverio, in charging Mrs. Cerilles, said when she was congresswoman in 1998, she managed to get some P500 million worth of projects from the Estrada administration but "the projects could be hardly seen or felt."

"This only suggests," he added "that much of the said funds were pocketed by her through corrupt and unscrupulous officials and employees of the DPWH engineering district . . . and with the help of cohort in the contracting business."

In the first half of 2001, Deliverio said Mrs. Cerilles as governor also caused the release of P150 million for projects "which were not bidded out or whose public biddings were simulated."

Deliverio even came out with a list of property allegedly owned by the Cerilleses including a P5 million mansion at Philam Homes in Quezon City, a townhouse also in Quezon City worth P3.5 million, a P10 million vacation house in Baguio City, a mansion resort in Tagaytay City worth P10 million and several commercial buildings and agricultural land.

Deliverio also said Cerilles was also able to acquire luxury vehicles including a P3 million Mercedez Benz, a BMW Sportscar worth P2.5 million, six Safari 4x4 station wagons costing P1.3 million each and two Toyota Land Cruisers costing P1.3 each.

"The respondent couple cannot claim as having received legitimate income from other sources, because they have not, as they have never, operated a viable business . . . For sure they cannot show proof that such other income was derived from legitimate sources in all these years from 1988 to 2001," Deliverio said. ***Hernan de la Cruz, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

American held for check fraud

BACOLOD CITY—An American has been languishing in jail in Kabankalan City for allegedly encashing fake traveler's' checks.

John Newton of New York is facing counterfeiting charges before Judge Rolando Chaves of the Kabankalan Regional Trial Court. The judge had denied bail for Newton.

Policemen in Bayawan town, Negros Oriental, arrested Newton on Sept. 20 after he allegedly encashed a counterfeit Thomas Cook Master Card traveler's check in $500 denominations at the Philippine National Bank.

Police reports said that Newton and his companion identified as Mike Kent, also an American, were able to encash fake traveler's' checks at PNB branches in the cities of La Carlota and Kabankalan on Aug. 7, Sept. 11, 20 and 24. Kent remains at large.

Senior Supt. Geary Barias, police provincial director of Negros Occidental, said Kent and Newton could be part of a syndicate engaged in encashing fake traveler's' checks.

Police said Newton encashed four Master Card traveler's checks at the PNB-Kabankalan branch on Aug. 7 in denominations of $100.

The checks were, however, returned to PNB-Kabankalan after they were found to be bogus. This prompted the PNB to issue an alert to all its branches, cautioning them to be wary about Kent and Newton.

But Newton continued to push his luck. He encashed a similar traveler's check for $500 at the PNB branch in Bayawan, Negros Oriental on Sept. 20.

After encashing the check, policemen immediately pounced on Newton. The American was invited to the Bayawan police station for questioning. Bayawan policemen informed their counterparts in Kabankalan City of Newton's arrest.

Two PNB employees turned witnesses against Newton. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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OCT. 3	9-5:30	PERFUMES AND COLOGNES	770.00
OCT. 3-4	9-5:30	FASTFOOD BUSINESS OPERATION (with field trip)	1,386.00
OCT. 4	9-5:30	SETTING UP A TRAVEL AGENCY	770.00
OCT. 4-5	9-5:30	WOOD FRAMING	1,540.00
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OCT. 6-7	9-5:30	DECORATIVE CANDLE MAKING (In cooperation with ITDI/DOST)	1,540.00
OCT. 6-7	9-5:30	DOLLAR TRADING/FOREIGN CURRENCY EXCHANGE	1,155.00
OCT. 6-8		OPERATING A LAUNDRY SHOP BUSINESS	1,732.50
6-7	9-5:30	(Small-Scale) (with field trip)	
8	9-12:00		
OCT. 8-	9-5:30	FRANCHISING A BUSINESS	770.00
OCT. 8-9	9-5:30	CATERING BUSINESS OPERATION	1,155.00
OCT. 8-9	9-5:30	REFLEXOLOGY	1,540.00
OCT. 8-10	9-5:30	PROFESSIONAL HOUSEKEEPING (Home, Hotel and Shipping Vessels) (with field trip)	2,310.00
OCT. 9-12	9-5:30	FIBERGLASS PRODUCTS MANUFACTURING	2,310.00
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6	9-5:30		
7	1-5:30		
8	9-2:00		
OCT. 8-9	9-5:30	DOG BREEDING WITH BUY-BACK SCHEME (in cooperation with Bio-Research) (with field trip)	1,386.00
OCT. 8-10	9-4:00	LAYER PRODUCTION (Table Egg) (with field trip)	1,732.50
OCT. 12-16	9-4:00	SWINE PRODUCTION (with field trip)	2,079.00

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DATE	TIME	COURSE	DISCOUNTED FEE
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OCT. 3	9-5:30	FLAVORED AND FORTIFIED JUICE	770.00
OCT. 4-5	9-5:30	SORBETES (COMMERCIAL) PRODUCTION (with field trip)	1,540.00
OCT. 4-5	9-5:30	INTERNATIONAL CUISINE	2,310.00
OCT. 5-6	9-5:30	COCONUT WATER PROCESSING (with field trip)	1,540.00
OCT. 6-7	9-5:30	BASIC MEAT PROCESSING	1,540.00
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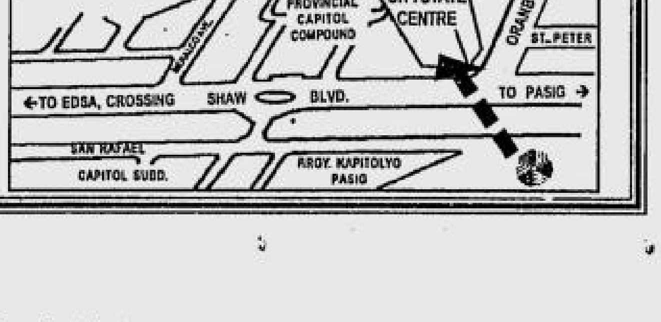

Ifugaos hail native warrior

(From page A1)

by provincial officials and friends at the Banaue Hotel and Youth Hostel in Banaue town.

"Your recognition means more than a medal for us who were there at the forefront of battle. We stood by our Ifugao pride. We have not run out of heroes since time immemorial, but somehow, I'm just lucky to be the first to be given such an honor," Guinolbay said.

The fourth of eight children of a poor family in Barangay Uong in Hingyon town, Guinolbay was recommended to receive a Medal of Valor, the highest military award in the country after he led an assault against Abu Sayyaf bandits in Lamitan.

His father Marcos, 66, a fish farmer, likened him to the late Army Capt. Emiliano Dulnuan of Barangay Burnay in Lagawe town.

The Ifugaos remember Dulnuan as the wartime officer who refused the seduction of a nurse and successfully led his men against Japanese troops during World War II.

Marcos said he was happy about the way his son followed his teachings.

"(I advised my son to emulate) Captain Dulnuan's discipline that a soldier should never indulge in sexual intercourse before going to battle, but rather he has to pray," Marcos, a *mumbaki* (native priest), said.

Ifugao war ethics

Marcos said another Ifugao ethic that they taught Guinolbay was to avoid harming women and their families and to respect them during military operations so as not to reap *tokum* (Ifugao term for retribution or karma).

"There were no human rights advocates then but the Ifugaos have long observed this ethic. Even if your enemy has a female follower, we have to respect our enemy by not touching him or her. Doing harm would result in revenge by their relatives," Marcos said.

He said Ifugao ethics also dictated that warring enemies should not indulge in treachery but rather in a legitimate fight agreed by both parties through a match or duel.

"But the problem is, this could not be applied in the military. The only way is to disarm these women as much as possible as a sign of respect. Warning her would be best because the underground movement (the New People's Army) is using women (in their campaigns)," he said.

Marcos said Ifugao warriors "only fight for peace and against abuses."

Guinolbay said he finds similarities between the Ifugao war ethics and the military's rules of engagement.

"Others also apply, like respect for the dead. They should not be mutilated, including the noncombatants. Another is (the aspect of) treachery. That is why (my parents) always wanted me to avoid trouble," he said.

Moral responsibility

Guinolbay, a course director of the Scout Ranger training school, and 70 of his men were sent to Basilan to help in the military campaign against the Abu Sayyaf in May and June.

"I personally trained my men so *matindi yung* moral obligation *ko sa kanila*. Perhaps (my) pride as an Ifugao drove me to hold the line and eventually headed the attack against the bandits," he told the INQUIRER.

During the 27-hour battle, four of his men were killed while 30 others, including him, were wounded.

Guinolbay said the military was also a reflection of Philippine society and the most critical thing in war was the people's support.

"If they view us as protectors of peace and order, *wala na sanang giyera* (there will be no war anymore). We all have our part. If (military men commit) abuses, we should report them, too," he said.

He lamented the little respect that military men get from the people they serve.

"It seems that our fellow Filipinos only realize the importance of our soldiers when there are wars and conflicts. I hope we could give the men and women in the military a little respect. I do believe in the saying that 'When I do wrong, no one forgets; when I do right, no one remembers,'" he said.

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Flaws in anti-money . . .

(From page A1)

will then have 15 days to get a court order to open the accounts to scrutiny.

"Freezing the account is one thing, but there is a limitation on the freeze period of 15 days. So the anti-money laundering council will still have to go to court in order to examine the account," Osmeña said.

Enforcement

Some lawmakers said a court order could provide safeguards against potential abuse or harassment by regulators but financial analysts argue this would delay and weaken enforcement.

"By the time you get a court order, the money could be gone," Fracesca Baniqued, who once worked with the US Federal Reserve Bank and had helped Manila craft the landmark legislation, said before the law was passed.

The Philippine Capital Markets Development Council, a high-level, inter-agency advisory body, said in a statement that the court order would make "bank deposit secrecy even stricter" than it was before.

Before the new legislation, the Philippines imposed tight secrecy on bank deposits whose global turnover runs as high as $600 billion a year.

RA 9160 lists 14 crimes considered possible sources of dirty money. These include kidnapping, robbery, swindling, drug trafficking and terrorism-related acts like hijacking, arson and murder.

A similar law in the United States covers 189 crimes.

"We can amend the law to improve on it and possible loopholes as we go along," Sen. Francis Pangilinan said.

"What's important is to have something done by Sept. 30 to avoid the sanctions," Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said.

Another flaw

One more suspected flaw in the new legislation is the exemption from scrutiny of all deposits and investments made before the law came into effect.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura had warned that there would be a demand for old bank accounts among people who want to preserve the secrecy of their deposits.

This would create a secondary market for bank accounts and result in the trading of so-called shell accounts to circumvent the law.

But the new legislation, under which convicted money launderers could be thrown in jail for up to 14 years, would compel banks to scrutinize suspicious dirty money before it enters their system.

Previously, banks were afraid to blow the whistle on potential money laundering due to the threat of being sued by their clients for violating the deposit secrecy law.

Still, officials said the mere passage of the law signaled a victory for Ms Macapagal, who had vowed to inject reforms into the administration after taking office in January.

The Philippines was the last among three states to comply with the OECD ultimatum. Russia and Nauru had beaten the deadline earlier and were spared the sanctions.

AFP

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Erap on trial: Sad, defiant

(From page A1)

Veterans' Memorial Medical Center to discuss their alternatives, the lawyers said.

Despite his initial readiness to appear at the formal start of his trial, his defense team insisted that he had repeatedly waived his right to appear.

Accusing the government of treating the deposed President like a "caged, wild animal," the lawyers also threatened to file administrative charges in the Supreme Court against Sandiganbayan justices of the third division.

The lawyers' final decision about attending could depend on what happens this morning to their pending urgent motion for the court to recall an order for the Philippine National Police to produce the defendants, Estrada and son Jinggoy, in court today.

The defense team has filed a motion questioning the court's move to appoint a government lawyer to act as temporary defense counsel. However, it has also given 48 folders of documents on the plunder case to the Public Assistance Office in anticipation that Estrada's lawyers will boycott the hearing.

Other commitments

Estrada said his main counsels, Flaminiano and Rene Saguisag, could not represent him in the proceedings because they have to attend to "their many other cases," while a third counsel, Cleofe Versola, "is out of the country right now."

"No one among us has committed to appear on Oct. 1. We have other commitments," Saguisag said of the defense team.

Asked who would appear for the accused today, Saguisag said: "I don't know."

The deposed leader said it was unnecessary for Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to have remarked Saturday that Estrada would be "bodily carried" to the Sandiganbayan should he refuse to attend the hearing.

"Why do they have to force me? I'll go there willingly. If I were guilty, I would have left the country long ago," he said.

"Maybe this is why the INQUIRER called my case 'history in the making'—no less than the DOJ (Department of Justice) twice offered me a chance to leave the country. But I chose to stay to face the charges and prove my innocence," Estrada said, referring to this paper's banner headline yesterday.

Parade

According to Saguisag, the Sandiganbayan justices "want to strip (Estrada) of his dignity. They want to publicly embarrass him . . . They want to parade him, and say '*kaya ka namin.*'"

"We got better treatment during martial law," the former senator and human rights lawyer spat.

Estrada "has already said that he was waiving his appearance and identification, which is a matter of right. Why is the court insisting that the police bring him to court?" he asked.

Flaminiano, in a separate interview, said the Sandiganbayan justices "have no concern for the feelings of the former President. It is so sad that these things are happening in a so-called democratic state."

He added: "We are shocked with what is happening. We who have been in the practice for more than 40 years, the rule of law, fairness and due process should be followed."

'Last straw'

The defense team vowed to file administrative charges against the Sandiganbayan's Third Division with the Supreme Court for "grave oppression" of their clients.

"We think this is the last straw. We are suing all three," Saguisag said, referring to the division's three justices—Associate Justices Anacleto Badoy Jr., Teresita Leonarda-De Castro and Ricardo Ilarde.

In past motions, the lawyers have asked Badoy, the division chair, and De Castro to recuse themselves from the court proceedings. They accused Badoy of bias against Estrada, as well as a conflict of interest because of a brother who was reappointed as a trustee at the Local Water Utilities Administration despite a pending graft case.

Estrada also complained that the Sandiganbayan seemed to be in a "hurry" to tackle his plunder case, as he continued to question Badoy's objectivity.

"(Badoy's) brother has a graft case pending before that court in the last four years. Why hasn't (Justice Badoy) acted swiftly on that, too?" the ousted leader asked.

Other grounds for filing administrative charges include the anti-graft court's insistence on beginning the trial today, even when Estrada's lawyers said that they were unavailable on Oct. 1, and the setting of the trial allegedly without a final pre-trial order.

Saguisag said the start of the trial was "premature," and claimed that a pre-trial order released by the court was just a draft.

He repeated that the Marcos graft cases have been dragging on at the Sandiganbayan for more than 10 years, and that the government was not pushing to prosecute these cases with the same fervor as the Estrada criminal cases.

Midnight call

Today, two witnesses are supposed to testify for the prosecution: former Social Security System chair Carlos Arellano and vice chair of Belle Corp., Willy Ng Ocier.

Arellano, according to lawyers, will testify that Estrada called him up at home on Oct. 6, 1999 between 11 p.m. and 12 midnight, and asked him to purchase Belle Corp. stock on behalf of the SSS.

He is expected to testify that he bought, under constant pressure from Estrada, 329,855,000 Belle shares with a gross value of P744,612,450.

Ocier, for his part, allegedly delivered an I-Bank check for P189.7 million to Estrada friend Jaime Dichaves, who claims to be the real identity behind Estrada's alleged alias "Jose Velarde." The amount allegedly represented the profit commissions of Estrada in the GSIS-SSS-Belle Corp. transaction.

But Saguisag said that any testimony delivered today by prosecution witnesses should be treated as null because of the absence of defense lawyers.

He said history would vindicate the Estradas, as well as their lawyers, in the end.

"Let's see who looks absurd in the future," Saguisag said.

Ani: I've always . . .

(From page A1)

hours planning his case to ensure that Estrada is convicted for plunder under the maximum penalty.

That penalty is death but President Macapagal-Arroyo, his successor, has already ruled out any executions.

With less than a thousand poorly paid government lawyers, a shoestring budget and a decrepit central Manila office, Desierto's troops were caught unawares when private plaintiffs laid corruption charges against former movie star Estrada in the House of Representatives last year.

It led to a landmark impeachment trial in the Senate that later triggered a military-backed popular revolt, ending 30 months of the scandal-wracked Estrada presidency.

Estrada allegedly used illegal gambling kickbacks and tax money to finance an opulent lifestyle for himself and a coterie of mistresses and cronies. He has pleaded not guilty to illegally amassing a personal fortune of P4 billion.

"When you live a complicated life, especially for those in government, the temptation to use your power to make money is very great. You start by getting a wife, that's very expensive," Desierto said, half in jest.

"So you have to look for other sources of income. And since you are in government, you use the power of government to make money. The second wife and the third wife are more expensive than the first one," he added.

The government lost P1.3 trillion through graft over the past 25 years, he said, citing a government study.

He said most of it was lost during the regime of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, also toppled in a bloodless popular revolt in 1986.

The figures for the Estrada years may not be as impressive, but Desierto said prosecutors hoped to turn up more evidence as former allies abandon the sinking Estrada ship.

With Marcos dying in exile in the United States without being indicted, Desierto knows there is only a small window of opportunity with the Estrada case. "Once money is lost by the government, it is almost impossible to retrieve it."

Therefore, "the best policy" is to stop corruption before it happens and create an "atmosphere of deterrence" by way of aggressive prosecution tactics, he said.

A University of the Philippines law graduate, Desierto started out as a radio broadcaster, later becoming a lawyer for the military against communist guerrillas and right-wing military putschists.

Desierto says he has filed criminal charges against more than 12,000 public officials from 46,000 cases investigated by his office.

What is missing is one real big fish.

A citizens' group, Plunder Watch, wrote to Desierto in early September to express concern over how the Ombudsman "appears to be bungling the prosecution" of Estrada.

Desierto bristles at the suggestion that the Philippines is one of the most corrupt countries on earth, saying these were mainly due to increased public "perception" of the problems due to the high-profile Estrada trial. *AFP*

E-mail starts soup kitchens for poor kids

(From page A1)

ties identified by the Department of Social Welfare and Development. Children in the communities were to receive food, pre-school education and social values formation.

It took one heartfelt e-mail from Andrada to get her rich friends to help the malnourished children.

Andrada resolved to share her "excess" blessings after watching an episode of "The Correspondents" on TV, which featured a family that allowed the eldest kid, who goes to school, to take the first bite of a single fish on the table before his siblings could eat.

She e-mailed her friends and gave them Wieneke's contact numbers in case they wanted to donate anything—from *monggo* to rice to books—or to sponsor a community feeding program for six months.

"The problem with people is that they see these things, and they are bothered for two seconds. Then they forget. They don't do anything about it," Andrada said.

"But that's not because they don't want to help. There are a lot of people in this country who want to give, but they don't know how or where (to give donations)," she added.

EMPLOYEES of Oracle Systems volunteer for feeding program. ERIK ARAZAS

That e-mail, initially addressed to 10 friends, reached hundreds of people, including the INQUIRER, and elicited volunteers and donations for the feeding program.

Oracle Systems

Among the first volunteer group was the information technology firm, Oracle Systems Inc., which offered to sponsor the feeding program at the MCDA community. Oracle urged its employees to help in the feeding program and social values formation sessions.

After only two months, Andrada's letter resulted in nine soup kitchen sites for the supplemental feeding program of the Kabisig ng Kalahi. Five are in Makati, three in Tondo and one in Pasig.

The services of at least 200 volunteers have been put on hold as the Kabisig has yet to set up enough soup kitchens and daycare centers, according to Wieneke.

"Times are difficult, but there are those of us who live in a society of excess. It shouldn't be too painful to give," Andrada said.

According to the six-week cycle menu designed by a dietician, it would cost only P7 to feed one child. The budget meal is being taught to the mothers of the malnourished kids.

Menu

Among the cheap but nutritious dishes are fish *tinola, togue guisado* with *pechay* and *tokwa, bachoy* with papaya and *sili* leaves, *monggo gisado* and *ginataang langka* with *daing*.

"It helps us, especially because we can't always be sure that we would have something to eat," said Esterlita de la Cruz, whose 3-year-old daughter is a beneficiary of the feeding program.

De la Cruz holds the funds from the private sponsors, who deposit the weekly allowance for the meals in the account of the parents, who, in turn, do the marketing and cooking for the feeding program.

The mothers are required to attend the weekly session on value formation that tackles love for country, cleanliness, nutrition and sanitation.

"This is not a dole-out. We make sure that the mothers do their share of work," Wieneke said. "This is not a one-shot deal like giving out gifts on Christmas. We are planting the seed for nation building."

US attacks call for new VFA interpretation

(From page A1)

ted itself to undertake six specific measures to "actively implement the UN resolution."

Two of these measures pledged the country to join the US-led International Counter-Terrorist Coalition, and "to make available Philippine air space and facilities when these are required as transit or staging points." The second-mentioned measure is the most controversial. It raised issues concerning the nature of the RP-US military cooperation under the 1998 Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

The 14-pillar policy is the most important foreign and security policy decision undertaken by the Macapagal administration. It commits the Philippines to join an international war on terrorism. The scope of the war is vastly broader than the country's alignment with the United States in the Cold War and the Vietnam War, and its sending of combat troops to the UN action in the Korean War—albeit the UN force was led by the United States.

A day after the announcement of the policy, the Macapagal administration revealed that Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander in chief of the US Pacific Fleet, had inspected the former US bases in Clark and Subic and outlined US plans in using the bases as transshipment platforms for possible military attacks on Afghanistan.

Beyond VFA

Allowing US access to Clark and Subic goes beyond the contemplation of the temporary visits of US forces under the VFA, which defines the framework of Philippine-US military cooperation for joint military exercises.

According to the primer explaining the VFA, the agreement "is a mechanism for regulating the circumstances and conditions under which US forces may visit the Philippines for bilateral military exercises."

The agreement was designed to give substance to the 1951 RP-US Mutual Defense Treaty that provides the overall framework of the defense relationship between the two countries. Joint military exercises were reduced following the withdrawal of US forces in 1992 when the Senate terminated the US lease on the bases.

Under the Mutual Defense Treaty, the two governments agreed "to respond in the event of an armed attack by foreign forces on the metropolitan or Pacific territories, armed forces, public vessels or aircraft or aircraft of either country."

The VFA was negotiated against the background of threats to regional security. The perspective then was that "the East Asia region has more than its share of serious regional tensions and potential security flash points."

Faced with this environment of regional uncertainty, negotiations were conducted to enhance the Philippine "defense capability and strengthen the effectiveness of its bilateral relationship with the United States"—not through the return of the bases but through short-term visits for the purpose of joint military exercises.

Senate hearings at the time pointed to the threats posed by the tensions over the Taiwan Straits. Closer to home, there was China's occupation of small islands in the South China Sea, including the Spratlys Group, where the Philippines occupies some of its islets it claims as part of the national territory.

At the time, the Abu Sayyaf abductions in Sipadan, Malaysia, and in Palawan, had not yet taken place and the Abu Sayyaf rebellion had not emerged as a threat to national security. The Abu Sayyaf's links to Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and the Pentagon, were not pronounced.

Radically changed

Following the terrorist attacks in the United States, the complexion of the threat to national security related to both the Philippines and the United States in the region was radically changed overnight. A de facto war—a new kind of war without borders and with global dimensions—erupted. Countries and population centers all over the world proved vulnerable to terrorist attacks fueled by deep-seated grievances and hatred by militant Islamic groups over the US and its Middle East policies related to Israel.

The fact that the Philippines has its own homegrown terrorist group preying on innocent civilians held as hostages for ransom over ambiguous political demands underlined the stakes of the Philippines in the international war on terrorism. Filipinos were among nationals from 80 countries who died in the rubble of the World Trade Center.

The drastically altered nature of the threat to national security beyond the strategic conception of regional security concerns and the very nature of the new war itself have rendered irrelevant and even inadequate the original meaning of threat under the VFA was negotiated.

The attacks that have now been traced to a global network of terrorist organizations operating across dozens of countries require the stretching of the interpretation of the VFA beyond the contemplation of the circumstances under which it was signed.

The attacks have overtaken the events that provided the setting of the VFA and have called for its reinterpretation in the light of the new circumstances of the war on terrorism. The original, narrow interpretation based on regional security concerns has to give way to a more flexible response by the Philippines.

This would make the country an effective partner in the international coalition against terrorism, without violating the essence of giving temporary access to logistical support to planned military action directed at the terrorist cells.

The use of the former bases as transshipment platforms for troops and military supplies and for refueling of aircraft could require longer US military presence than the few weeks envisaged under the VFA for joint military exercises.

We are talking about war in the aftermath of the attacks and no longer about military exercises.

Not in the cards

The return of the bases to the Americans is not in the cards. What is relevant is US access to our facilities to help win the war on terrorism while, at the same time, enhancing the country's capability to combat homegrown terrorists like the al-Qaida, the organizing structure of terrorist attacks on global targets.

If there had not been a VFA, we would have stood in isolation with the rest of the world whose defenseless peoples face the menace of this new scourge. The framework of the VFA is elastic enough to accommodate the requirements of military cooperation that is evolving into a strategy of shifting ad hoc alliances.

Members of the coalition are envisaged to contribute their effort, depending upon their economic and military capability to provide inputs in intelligence information to track down terrorist activities and stifle their networks of financial support.

The issue before Filipinos, in this context of a fundamental shift in alliances and warfare, is whether adapting and reinterpreting the VFA to the new conditions serve the national interest.

The terrorist attacks in the United States have rendered the restrictive interpretation anachronistic.

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AN OPEN LETTER TO DR. ROLAND KOCH

CHAIRMAN, SUPERVISORY BOARD OF FRAPORT

Dear Dr. Koch,

We understand you came to Manila to look at the progress of the NAIA Terminal 3 construction and to assess Fraport's investment in the project. Your local partner may have given you a rosy picture but here's the real truth:

1. The project is now plagued with lawsuits and investigations by the Philippine Senate and the House of Representatives. This is because the PIATCO-DOTC Concession Agreement violates our constitution, our B.O.T. law, and is simply unfair to the nation. In its present form, the contract will forever be questioned unless it is transparently reviewed and corrected.

2. Furthermore, even your employees who sit in the PIATCO board have allegedly conspired with PIATCO's contractor to overcharge the government by 500% for the excavation work done in the project site. This is now the subject of a plunder case filed in the Office of the Ombudsman. Under Philippine Laws, if the offenders are found guilty, they are punishable with life imprisonment or death.

3. Your local partner is also using the PIATCO-DOTC Concession Agreement as a leverage to coerce and intimidate foreign airlines into contracting with his own service companies. This goes against the very nature of fairness and a level playing field. As a result, the entire airport services industry, together with their joint partners (Singapore Airlines, Swissair, Malaysia, Emirates, Eurest and Menzies) have united to demand a review of the contract and to correct the onerous and lopsided provisions therein.

4. Philippine Airlines, which accounts for more than 50% of international traffic, has openly announced it will never separate its domestic and international operations and will remain in Terminal 2. In hindsight, PIATCO should have consulted the airlines and operators before embarking in the project.

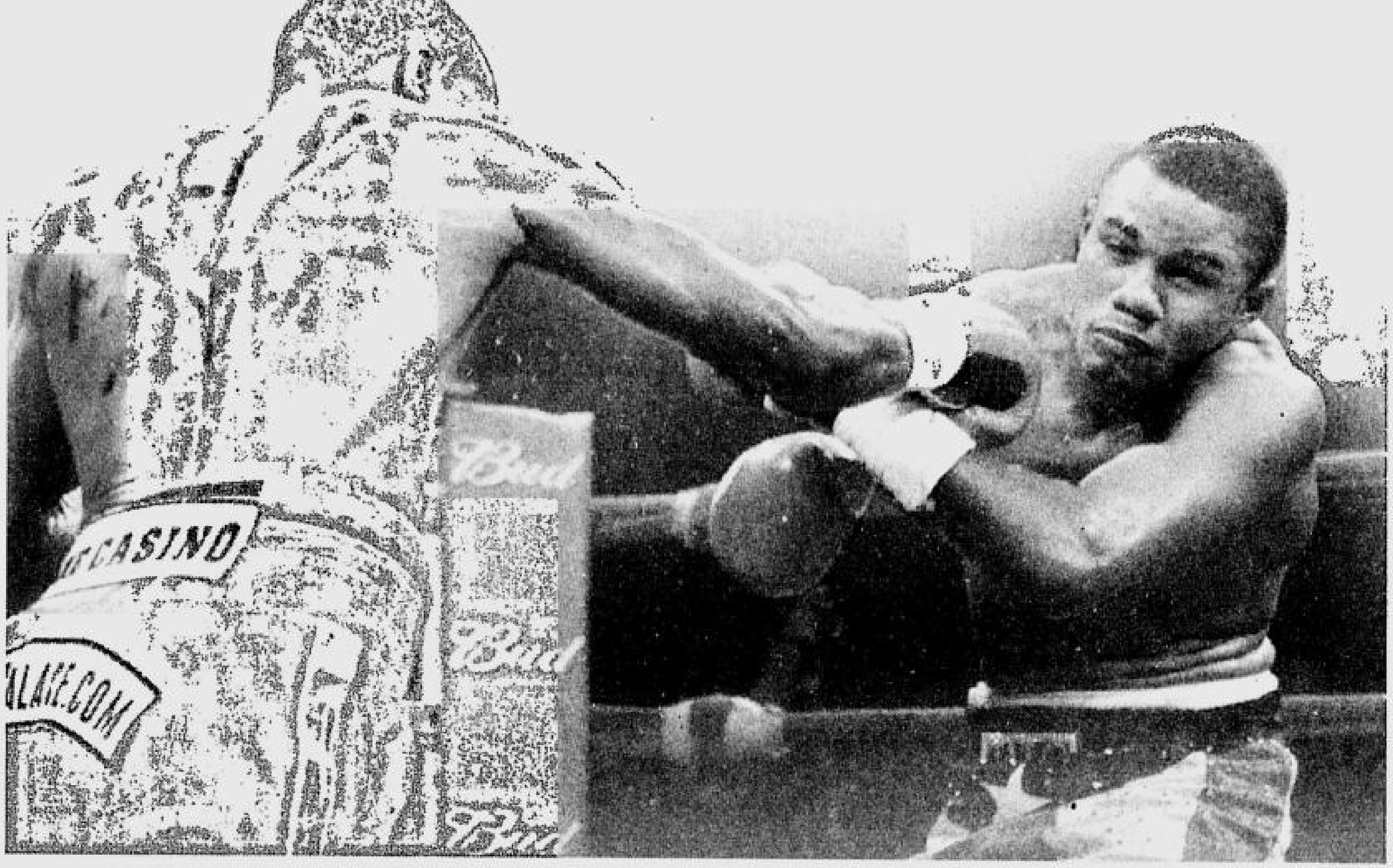
5. The only solution, Dr. Koch, is to correct the wrongs in the contract, to make the onerous provisions more favorable to the government and the Filipino people, and to get your local partner off the steering wheel. Otherwise the project could eat up 60% of all your IPO proceeds and financially hurt all the German investors who put their savings in your stock. And as head of the Supervisory Board, you will have a lot of explaining to do.

THE MIA-NAIA ASSOCIATION OF SERVICE OPERATORS

PAID AD

UNDISPUTED CHAMPION

Hopkins stops Trinidad in 12th



HOPKINS (left) jars Trinidad with a right in the sixth round. REUTERS

NEW YORK—Bernard Hopkins boasted he was the true middleweight champion, then went out and proved it by stopping previously unbeaten Felix Trinidad in the 12th round early Sunday morning at Madison Square Garden.

The victory made Hopkins the undisputed middleweight champion.

The defeat had to be a bitter one for Trinidad, who won his first 40 fights, 33 by knockout, and at times seemed invincible.

While Hopkins' victory might have been unexpected, it was also one-sided. The 36-year-old Philadelphian dominated the last six rounds and had Trinidad in all kinds of trouble.

The end came when Hopkins landed a tremendous right to the head that sent Trinidad reeling backward and to the canvas. The 28-year-old Puerto Rican struggled up about 9, and referee Steve Smoger looked at him. Then Trinidad's father climbed into the ring to signal that his son was beaten.

When he realized he won, Hopkins leaped onto the ring ropes and started to chant, "U-S-A, U-S-A."

Hopkins, who complained he was overshadowed by the likes of Trinidad, Roy Jones Jr., and Oscar de la Hoya despite being a champion since 1995, got respect—and then some—with his victory.

Hopkins (40-2-1, 29 knockouts) went into the ring as the IBF and WBC middleweight champion, and won the WBA title from Trinidad.

Hopkins fought a brilliant fight. He gave Trinidad lots of movement, stiff jabs and, when Trinidad tried to attack, Hopkins simply outgunned him with both hands to the body and head.

In the sixth round, Trinidad, a former welterweight and super-welterweight champion, landed several shots in what was the best round of the fight. The two men went toe-to-toe on several occasions, with Trinidad having the best of it most often.

He ended the round with three or four shots to the head.

It was Trinidad's last hurrah.

Hopkins' strength began to come to the fore in the second half of the fight. He landed several good head shots in the seventh, eighth and ninth rounds, and had Trinidad wobbly on occasion.

Then in the 10th, Hopkins drove Trinidad around the ring, and just before the bell he landed a tremendous right to the head that had Trinidad tottering. At the bell, Trinidad wobbled back to his corner.

Hopkins, who weighed 157 pounds (70.65 kilograms) to 158.5 pounds (71.33 kilograms) for Trinidad, continued to dish out punishment in the 11th round and then finished it at 1:22 of the 12th.

The victory gave Hopkins a 14-1-1 record with 10 knockouts in championship matches. Trinidad's loss snapped a streak of 20 victories, 17 by knockout, in championship bouts.

Hopkins earned $2.5 million with a victory that will earn him much more, while Trinidad earned $9 million.

In an undercard, Mexico's Ricardo "Finito" Lopez remained unbeaten and retained his IBF light flyweight world title with an eighth-round knockout of South African Zolani Petelo. *AP*

PSC holds dinner for peace

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission is hosting a testimonial dinner for Filipino athletes and officials tonight at the Philsports Arena where no less than First Gentleman Mike arroyo will lead the urgent call for peace and harmony.

Arroyo and Tuason will also award the cash incentives to the medal winners of the last Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The affair starts at 7 p.m. with most of the leaders of various national sports associations (NSAs), the Philippine Olympic Committee and other related organizations expected to be in attendance.

"This affair is really for all Filipinos who believe there is hope for Philippine sports. That we can achieve a lot of things just being united," said Tuason.

He said that in a recent meeting among various NSA heads, they pledged to rally behind moves to harmonize relations among the PSC and the POC and their groups which is a big step toward the goal of causing a big turnaround for Philippine sports.

"The First Gentleman was just so glad to hear form the NSA heads their willingness to mend fences torn by leadership struggles and differences in opinion," Tuason said.

The resolution of the basketball controversy, he said, was a big factor in making the NSAs realize it's time they do away with internal troubles and work for the good of their athletes and country.

Mr. Arroyo's pledge of support through private sponsors is a big supplement to the existing PSC resources, according to Tuason, and should be a reason for all the athletes being held under the national stable to keep their focus on the big missions coming up including the 2002 Asian Games.

About P11 million from the PSC and the Kaibigan ni GMA Foundation have been earmarked for the incentives of medal winners, 163 of them, in Kuala Lumpur.

There were 30 gold medalists, 66 silver winners and 67 bronze takers. Each gold is equivalent to P100,000 from the PSC and an additional P25,000 from the KGMA Foundation, a silver fetches P50,000 plus P12,500 from KGMA and a bronze is worth P25,000 including another P6,500 from KGMA.

I am the American dream, says Bernard

NEW YORK—Bernard Hopkins declared himself the living embodiment of the American dream on Sunday and set out to mend fences after becoming the first undisputed world middleweight champion since 1987.

"I am the American dream. I am a role model, I am the great story of USA," said Hopkins after stopping previously unbeaten World Boxing Association (WBA) champion Felix Trinidad at Madison Square Garden to unify the title.

"It's been a struggle getting here, but I know the things that I stood up for and fought for. I knew that I was headed for destiny," said 35-year-old Hopkins, who spent five years in prison in his youth but went on to become a solid citizen and devoted family man.

Hopkins had ruffled a lot of feathers in the run-up to the biggest fight of his career but set out to make things right immediately after his dominating victory.

Tito Gene

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE LATE bon vivant Eugenio J. Puyat is worth emulating that is why I am writing about him, hoping that the present crop of sports leaders will learn a thing or two from the extraordinary examples he set when he served as the first president of the American Boxing Association of the Philippines way back in 1961.

Fondly called Tito Gene by his many friends and admirers, he was the moving spirit behind the enormous progress of amateur boxing in the country during the golden years of the 1960s and until the late 1970s. Dapper in his nice suits, Tito Gene was the most active and most successful president of any national sport association of that period, capping his magnificent reign in 1964 when the Philippines won the first Olympic silver medal in Tokyo through featherweight boxer Anthony Villanueva.

Tito Gene's expensive taste was legendary in all his travels abroad or to the provinces—which was often—he paid for his and his staff's expenses. He attended to his duty as boxing president without fail, leaving his business in Manila for days or weeks. Despite failing health, he traveled to the cities of Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Bacolod, Baguio, Bago and other localities to oversee the sport he loved so much.

"He sat at ringside for eight to 10 hours daily, passing up dinner for four or five days that the tournament lasted," said Mario Roxas, formerly with the Associated Press and now with Puyat Sports. "If there were people who joined sports associations for personal gains, Mr. Puyat was not one of them." When he knew death was near, Roxas recalled, one of his death-bed instructions was for Abap money he saved, amounting to P192,548.04, to be turned over to his successor, which the association did.

Tito Gene never wanted to make Abap his private domain. He resigned in 1965, four years after founding and heating the association as its president, and again in 1970 and 1976 after undergoing major surgeries. These resignations were all rejected by the Abap board in recognition of his leadership and dedication to the sport.

When he joined Abap in 1961, Tito Gene was already a past president of the Rotary Club of Manila and co-founder of the Manila and Philippine Jaycees. Because he was well-liked and respected civic leader and successful businessman, amateur boxing benefited from these impressive credentials.

Abap held tournaments all over the country, most of them in the provinces to discover and develop talents from the grassroots. Several international meets were likewise held here, including the 4th Asian Boxing Championships in 1970 and the 3rd Asian Youth Boxing Championships in 1975. Under his presidency, many boxers, aside from Anthony Villanueva, reaped honors of the country. Among the more prominent gold medal winners were: Manfredo Alipala (4th Asian Games, Jakarta, 19620, Arnulfo Torrevillas (1st Asian Boxing Championships, Bangkok, 1963), Ernesto Navarro (2nd Asian Boxing Championships, Seoul, 1965), Rodolfo Arpon (5th Asian Games. Bangkok, 1966), Ricardo Fortaleza (1st Asian Youth Boxing Championships, Tokyo, 1969), Ricardo Fortaleza (6th Asian Games, Bangkok, 1970), Renato Fortaleza (2nd Asian Youth Boxing Championships, Seoul, 1971);

* * *

For inquiries, call fax/phone (044) 933-1214.

Alabang gains semis seat

ALABANG clinched an automatic semis berth after edging an upset-conscious Valley, 2.5-1.5, even as Southwoods boosted its hopes of taking the other by blanking Orchard as expected in the 2001 Federation League matches in various venues over the weekend.

The Alabang squad rode on victories by Caloy Coscolluela-Danny Sarmiento (high-low) and Francis Jimenez-Rene Garovillo (aggregate) and a big draw forged by Seve Roxas Chua-Cesar Muñoz in best ball to give themselves the luxury of skipping over the quarterfinals and head straight to the semis.

Alabang will finish the No. 2 qualifier whatever will be the result of the duel between Rivera and out-of-the-running Eastridge tomorrow which will determine the No. 1 qualifier of the eliminations. Riviera needs a victory for it to clinch the top spot wile both a loss and a draw gives a waiting Southwoods the other semis berth.

The two teams with the best records among the division winners head straight to the semis while the third division champ goes through the quarterfinals with the No. 2 teams in the three groups.

Forest Hills topped Group II after closing out its sked with a 3.5-.5 demolition of Malarayat while Tagaytay Highlands shot down defending champion Wack Wack's bid for both division honors and a semis slot by forging a 2-2 draw.

Forest Hills and Manila Golf, the second qualifier from Group III next to Alabang, will collide for a semis ticket on Oct. 6-7. Wack Wack tackles either Riviera or Southwoods for the fourth seat in the same weekend.

Giving Wack Wack the big blows were the Highlands tandems of Clifford Lichaytoo-Jerome Velasco who took the aggregate format and Rhoneil Chousart-Freence Tecson who prevailed in scramble play.

Wack Wack won the bestball through Marlon Dizon and Estong Lim and high-low through Tetu Santos and Kit Lopez.

MVP—Catherine Flores of Ligao City, Albay powered Bicol University to the high school girls title in partnership with Joan Vibar in the recent 2001 Milo All-Students tennis meet at the Rizal hardcourts. Flores was named MVP.

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day – US Grand Prix at 8:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

2001 F1 World Championships – US Grand Prix at 9:15 a.m. and 8:45 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Chequered Flag - F1 US Grand Prix at 11:30 a.m. and 11 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

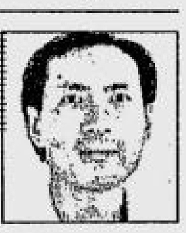
2001 FIA World Rally Championships Highlights at 6 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

GOLF: Golfglobe 2001 at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

PGA - Texas Open, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r – 11:30 p.m.) on Star Sports

Training camps open Oct. 2

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

VETERAN playmaker John Stockton and incoming sophomore frontliner Marc Jackson are the latest free agents to secure employment papers but a number of their ilk remain without an NBA contract for the 2001-02 wars even as training camps are set to open on Oct. 2.

Still looking for roster berths are Anthony Mason, Arvydas Sabonis, Rod Strickland, Isaiah Rider, Jim Jackson and A.C. Green.

Stockton, the all-time leader in assists and steals in NBA regular-season history, re-signed with the Jazz for a two-year, $16-millin pact. The 6-1, 39-year-old point guard, a shoo-in for the Hall of Fame, has been with the Jazz since joining the league in 1984-85. He bankrolled $11 million last campaign but accepted a pay cut of $3 million so that Utah would remain below the estimated dollar-for-dollar luxury tax threshold of $54 million.

Stockton ransk first on the NBA all-time list for longevity with one team with 1,340 regular-season games (out of a possible 1,362) with the Jazz.

Jackson, an NBA All-Rookie First Team selection in 2000-01 after spending five years in Spain and Turkey, may be out of Golden State after signing a six-year, $24.375 million offer sheet with Houston last September 28. The Warriors have 15 days to match the offer and keep the 6-10 frontliner's services although that is very unlikely.

The Rockets, who lost longtime star Hakeem Olajuwon to Toronto in a sign-and-trade this summer, earlier received a medical exception worth $3.25 million as a result of the season-ending injury (torn Archilles' tendon) to power forward Maurice Taylor and applied that money to a contract offer for Jackson.

Surprisingly, an All-Star forward like Mason could be out of a job this season.

Philadelphia and Milwaukee have talked to Miami about a sing-and-trade deal involving Mason but nothing has come out of the talks. The Heat are already committed to spending $50.6 million on player salaries in the upcoming season and giving in to Mason's contract demands—$26 million over five years—would put them above the luxury tax threshold.

Roligon derby unfolds today

THE MUCH-AWAITED Blue Blade 5-stag derby will be held today, Oct. 1, at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

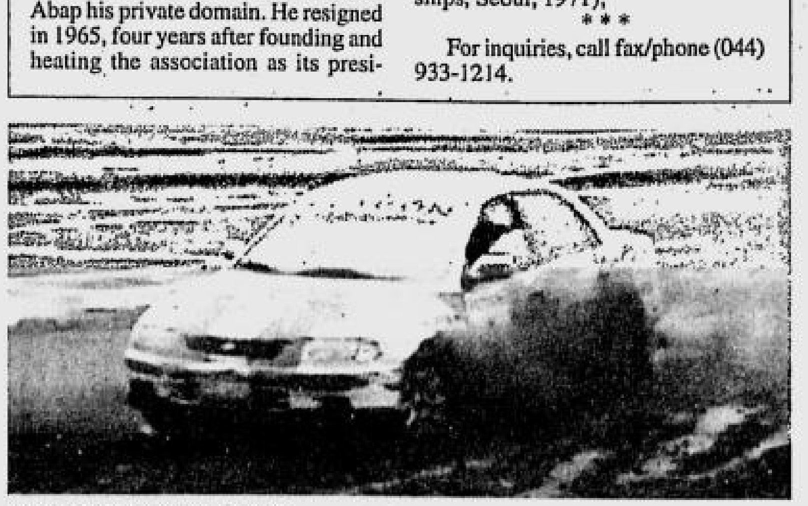
Host Sonny Lagon, a respected cocker-breeder in San Pablo City, Cebu and Davao, said the derby will be participated in by well-known aficionados from Metro Manila and nearby provinces.

Among them are UCAP members such as Vic Yu, Richard Bates, the team of Ramon and Moroy, Joey delos Santos, lawyer Rudy Salud, Bobot Uey of Cebu, Dennis del Rosario, William Go, ASF and Company and many others.

Promoter Danny "Showdown" Ty said no less than 50 fights are expected in this derby.

He also said that weights between 1.7 kg and 2.1 kg must be submitted on the day of the fight from 6 to 11 a.m. Screening of entries will also be done on this day.

Other derbies scheduled at Roligon are: Oct. 5-Joshua 5-Stag Derby by Peping Suarez, Oct. 13-Bench 4-Stag Derby by Ben Chan, Oct. 20-Mangzee 4-Stag Derby by Bobby del Rosario and Oct. 30-"Tukaan" 4-Stag Derby by Emoy Gorgonia.



RALLYCROSS BET

Vip Isada, in his Mazda 323, negotiates a tough rallycross track at the CCP Complex to post a time of 1:07.08 and rule the production class of the fifth leg of K-Lite Rallycross Series

GOLF WINNERS

Tony Josue, fourth from right, won overall honors in the recent XP Golf Classic at the Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club. The event was sponsored by the XP Club, an exclusive group formed by Ford Expedition vehicle owners in the country. Also shown from left are: Ford Makati president Willy Teeten; golf committee member Reuben Lista Jr.; committee head Jimmy Bautista; first runnerup Vince Tanjutco; second runnerup Vic Romero; third runnerup George Benidy and XP Club president Tito Nuguidula.

ESGUERRA (right) receives the Open Championship trophy from Philracom chair Andrew Sanchez and Tony Young of TAB Philippines. VAL HANDUMON

Wind Blown prevails

Esguerra donates P1M to future championship

By Edwin Villanueva

SUN City expectedly carried the march but Wind Blown unleashed the bigger strides to rule the Open Championship race and pocket the P1-million prize that went with it at the San Lazaro Hippodrome yesterday.

Galloping briskly under the cool and calculating ride of star jockey Pat Dilema, Wind Blown blew past Sun City nearing the home turn then drew clear to prevail pulling away despite carrying a top weight of 58 kilos.

"He really has a champion's heart and he didn't fail his fans today," said jubilant owner Hermie Esguerra in praise of his massive galloper.

Minutes after the victory, Esguerra announced that he would donate Wind Blown's cool million to a future championship race involving his colt and all the best competing horses at present, including Silver Story.

Esguerra also lauded Dilema for his superb handling and former star jockey Antonio Alcasid Jr. for putting Wind Blown in perfect shape for the race.

"I salute Patti and Oyet. *Ang ganda ng kumbinasyon nila at nasunod ni* Patti to the letter *lahat ng* instructions *ni* Oyet," added Esguerra, whose entry's earnings soared to P7.7 million after yesterday's feat.

"I'd also like to share Wind Blown's victory to Sandy," said Esguerra, referring to sportsman-businessman Sandy Javier, Wind Blown's breeder and former owner.

Wind Blown (Hazm- Wind in My Hair) timed a respectable 2:00 flat over 1,900 meters, submitting fractions of 17-23.5-25-25.5-29. It was just 1.4 ticks off Hazmoore's record.

Longshot Kiwi Rose won the frantic battle for second spot, finishing seven lengths off the winner to snatch P300,000, while High Roller rallied to claim third spot and P150,000. Materiales Fuertes arrived fourth, with Sky Hawk and Legend of Gaia checking in fourth and fifth, respectively.

Sun City eventually faded to seventh then came Proud Idol and The Fox.

Futurity highlights Sta. Lucia racefest

TWENTY invitational races highlighted by the Grand Futurity Stakes are on tap when real estate developer Sta. Lucia Realty and Development, Inc. holds its five-day racing festival on Oct. 3-7 at the Santa Ana Park.

A guaranteed gross prize of P150,00 awaits winners of each race, while champion in the Grand Futurity, to be held on Oct. 7, gets P225,000.

Noted gallopers Bidang Bida, Baccarat, Agree to Agree, Flaming Bullet, Harmless Inc., Picture Perfect, Power Pack, Selectee, Serena, Lyonnais and Silver Rose are expected to join the racefest.

The SLR Racing Festival will also serve as venue to introduce Saddle & Clubs Leisure Park in Tanza, Cavite where a grandiose racetrack is now being constructed.

Saddle & Clubs Leisure Park is a 576-hectare mixed-used estate that also features a commercial, residential and golf facilities.

Aside from SLRDI, also supporting the event are the Philippine Racing Club, Azkcon Construction and Dev. Inc., Ebecom Holdings Inc., Harmony Homes Inc., Megatop Realty, and lawyer Diogenes Bartolome. Royal Homes Marketing Corp. handles the marketing network.

SLRDI also announced that top PBA players and show biz personalities will also grace the racingfestival.

When completed, the Saddles & Club racing facility would be the new site of the Santa Ana Park.

Interested parties may call Royal Homes at tel. 726-4288 and 723-4014.

Fishing meet on tap

THE FIRST Boracay Fish ID Scuba Diving adventure will be held at Lorenzo Resort on Oct. 27-29.

Backing the event are New Wave Divers, Air Philippines and 99.5 RT. Entry fee is P8,535.

Highlights of the meet will be featured in the show "Unlimited Diving" which is aired over NBN Channel 4 Fridays 11-11:30 p.m.

For inquiries and reservations call tel. (632) 920-8505, cell 0917-9398895 or e-mail at unlimited diving @yahoo.com.

NBI golf tourney slated

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation will hold the first NBI Director's Golf Cup on Nov. 8 at the Southwoods Legends Course in Carmona, Cavite.

The fund-raising event initiated by the NBI Retirees and Ex-employees Association (REXEI) headed by former NBI Director Mariano Mison is aimed at providing sufficient life and accident benefits to each member.

It is fully supported by the NBI leadership headed by its Director Gen. Reynaldo G. Wycoco, his deputies and present crop of agents.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Fidel V. Ramos will be invited to grace the ceremonial tee offs.

Director Wycoco is also the tournament chair, with Lolito Utitco as his deputy and lawyer Samuel Fiji as tournament director. Rolando P. Moscardon is the consultant.

Interested parties may call the tournament secretariat—Clarissa and Maxie at tel. nos. 524-5084 and 525-6895.

Bonds 1 homer shy

SAN FRANCISCO—Barry Bonds hit his 69th home run, moving within one of Mark McGwire's record, a tiebreaking drive in the sixth inning that led the San Francisco Giants over the San Diego Padres 3-1 Saturday.

Bonds' homer off Chuck McElroy (1-1) was the 563rd of Bonds' career, tying Reggie Jackson for seventh on the career list. Bonds has five homers in his last six games.

San Francisco remained two games behind NL West leader Arizona and three back of St. Louis in the wild card race.

Russ Ortiz (16-9) allowed one run and five hits in seven innings, and Robb Nen pitched the ninth for his 43rd save. AP

BASEBALL RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	Gb
Y-NY Yankees	91	62	.595	—
Boston	76	77	.497	15
Toronto	74	80	.481	17 1/2
Baltimore	62	92	.403	29 1/2
Tampa Bay	57	97	.370	34 1/2
Central				
Cleveland	88	66	.571	—
Minnesota	81	74	.523	7 1/2
Chi White Sox	81	74	.523	7 1/2
Detroit	64	91	.413	24 1/2
Kansas	61	94	.394	27 1/2
West				
Y-Seattle	110	45	.710	—
X-Oakland	96	59	.619	14
Anaheim	75	80	.484	35
Texas	71	84	.458	39

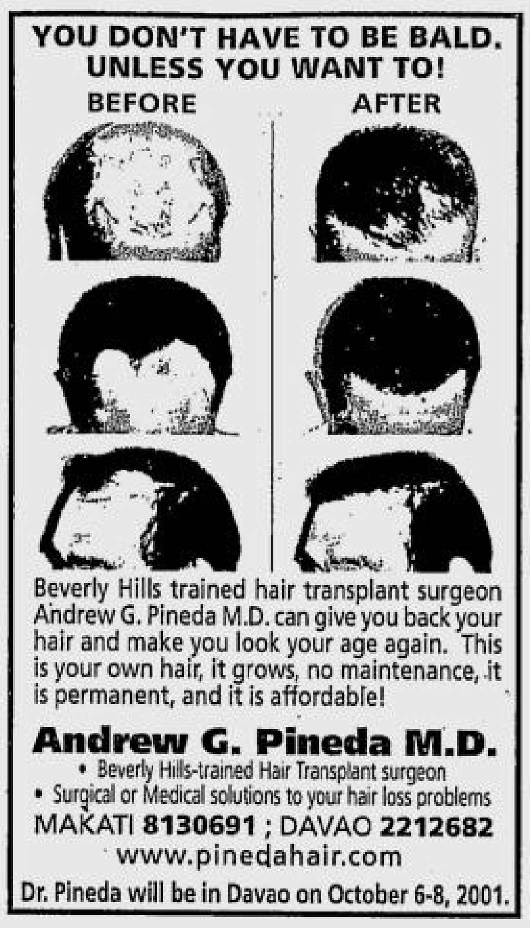
X—Cliched Wild Card
Y—Won Division Title

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East	W	L	Pct	Gb
Atlanta	84	71	.542	—
Philadelphia	82	73	.529	2
NY Mets	79	76	.510	5
Florida	72	83	.465	12
Montreal	65	90	.419	19
Central				
Houston	91	64	.587	—
St. Louis	89	66	.574	2
Chicago Cubs	84	71	.542	7
Milwaukee	65	90	.419	26
Cincinnati	64	91	.413	27
Pittsburgh	58	97	.374	33
West				
rizona	88	67	.568	—
San Francisco	86	69	.555	2
Los Angeles	81	74	.523	7
San Diego	76	79	.490	12
Colorado	70	85	.452	18

National League
Atlanta 8, NY Mets 5;
Cincinnati 7, Montreal 4
Chicago CUBS 6, Houston 2
Colorado 14, Milwaukee 12
San Francisco 3, San Diego 1
Arizona 8, Los Angeles 1
St. Louis 2, Pittsburgh 0
Philadelphia 5, Florida 4

American League
Cleveland 9, Minnesota 8;
Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 2;
Baltimore 7, NY Yankees 2;
Detroit 7, Boston 2;
Chi White Sox 10, Kansas City 2;
Anaheim 13, Texas 2;
Oakland 8, Seattle 4; AFP



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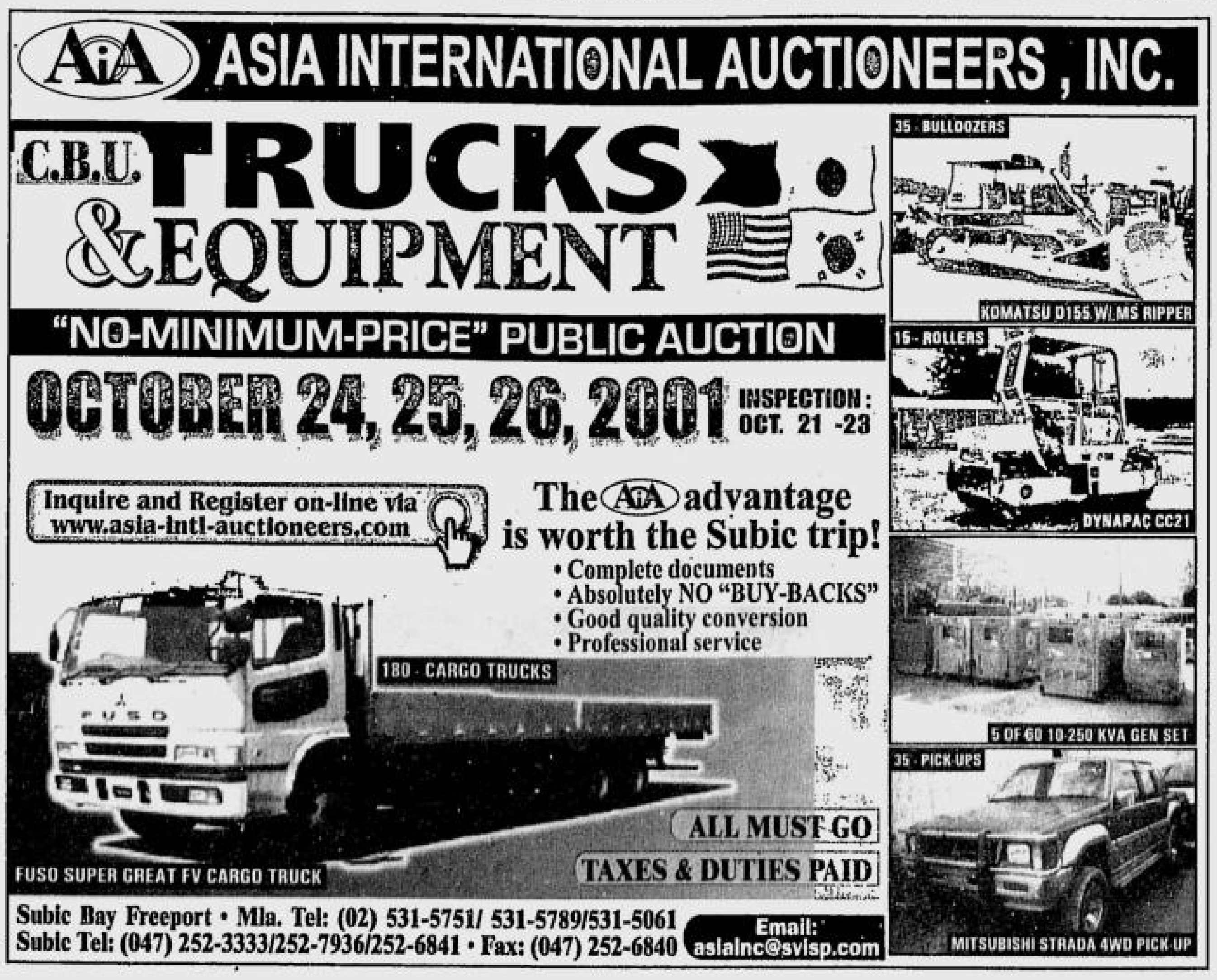

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SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

■ Hopkins undisputed middleweight champ A22

RP golfers earn World Cup slot

THE PHILIPPINE duo of Rodrigo Cuello and Danny Zarate completed a remarkable showing against world-class opposition when they tied for the fifth and sixth places yesterday in the Davidoff Asian Nations Cup, clinching a ticket to the EMC World Cup next month where Tiger Woods and other marquee players of the game are set to see action.

The Mizuno-sponsored Cuello and Zarate, carrying the banner of Wilson, closed out with a three-under-par 69 for a 269 total like Holland and put themselves safely into the Magic Six which advanced to the tournament proper with a $3 million (about P153 million) pot set Nov. 15-18 in Japan.

Cuello and Zarate are actually just replacements for Frankie Miñoza and Cassius Casas who begged off due to commitments made earlier. Zarate teamed up with Casas the last time the Philippines made it to the World Cup proper two years ago in Kiawah Island, North Carolina.

China took the No. 1 slot with a 65-265 while host Malaysia checked in second just a stroke behind after a 71. Norway finished third at 267 while Mexico claimed the fourth slot with a 267 aggregate.

Meanwhile, Fil-American Dorothy Delasin shot a 71 and moved one rung higher to 21st but far behind runaway leader Se Ri Pak of Korea after three rounds of the AFLAC Champions in Mobile, Alabama.

Pak sizzled with a 64 for a 201 and a seven-stroke lead over Canadian Lorie Kane. Delasin, already with winnings of more than $400,000 this season, was at 217. *Jong Arcano*

Gin trips San Mig in OT

GAMES WEDNESDAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
5:05 p.m.—Pop Cola vs Talk N Text
7:10 p.m.—Red Bull vs Purefoods

BY JUNE NAVARRO

ANTIPOLO CITY—Barangay Ginebra shattered San Miguel Beer's defensive barrier in overtime to carve out a 97-92 triumph last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Ynares Center here.

Playmaker Bal David drilled in a morale-deflating triple while rookie Mark Caguioa applied the finishing touches as the Kings outsteadied the Beermen in the extension period.

But Mark Jones proved to be the decisive factor as he totally outplayed an out-of-sync Lamont Strothers that kept the Beermen struggling offensively throughout.

Jones had 25 points on top of 19 rebounds, an assist and a steal to lead the Kings to their third victory in five games for a share of second place with the Pop Cola Panthers.

"He (Jones) handled Strothers pretty well on the defensive end apart from the splendid effort coming from the backcourt," said Ginebra coach Allan Caidic, who as a player steered the Beermen to several titles in the late '80s.

Jayjay Helterbrand, Caguioa and David practically outgunned the Beermen's backcourt duo of Olsen Racela and Boybits Victoria as they combined for a total of 38 points and a multitude of intangibles that provided enough backbone for the Kings' winning cause.

Helterbrand put Ginebra in a favorable position in the final period with timely jumpers as the Kings held the Beermen from ripping the game apart.

When Helterbrand's guns fell silent, David had some sparkling moments of his own in the extra period highlighted by a triple in the last 50 seconds.

David's trey granted the Kings a breather, 90-87, before Caguioa converted the insurance baskets from the stripe to seal the Beermen's third straight setback in five games.

The Beermen share fifth-place honors with the struggling Purefoods TJ Hotdogs at 2-3.

In the second game, Paolo Mendoza sank the game-clinching freethrows as Sta. Lucia Realty beat Alaska, 103-98, to remain unbeaten in five games. The Aces plummeted further down the pits at 0-5.

Scores:

GINEBRA 97—Jones 25, Helterbrand 16, David 16, Limpot 14, Meneses 13, Caguioa 6, Lago 3, Ong 2, Magtulis 2.

SMB 92—Strothers 21, Ildefonso 21, Belasco 16, Victoria 11, Lago 9, Racela 8, Pena 4, Abuda 2.

Quarters: 23-22, 42-43, 63-65, 81-all, 97-92 OT.

Lakers break scoring mark

STA. CRUZ, LAGUNA—It was an express delivery by the FedEx Laguna Lakers.

Flaunting their offensive artillery, the Lakers routed the TPG Davao Eagles, 142-107, in record fashion in the MBA Second Phase at the San Luis Sports Complex here.

That winning score eclipsed the previous league high of 140 set by Andok's San Juan also against Davao in the First Phase, while the combined output of 249 surpassed the 242 posted by Cebuana Lhuillier against San Juan (137-105) on June 15.

Chris Clay was at the forefront of the Lakers juggernaut, coming through with 39 points, four assists, three steals, three rebounds and one block and was named best player of the game.

It wasn't an all Clay show, however, as all the 12 players fielded in by coach Bonnie Garcia chipped in 12 points or more to give the Lakers their third win in five starts. TPG Davao suffered its second straight defeat.

A one-handed slam by Michael Garcia with 38 seconds left broke San Juan's mark and turned out to be the final basket of the one-sided affair.

The Lakers, with Junel Mendiola, Richie Melencio, Biboy Simon, Tek Regidor and Jeffrey Flowers contributing in the scoring, pulled away in the third quarter, 97-83, and were never threatened.

Clay pumped in 15 points in the fourth quarter, while Simon hit back-to-back triples as the Lakers took the fight out of the Eagles, 121-94, halfway through the final quarter.

Playing one of his best games as a Laker, Mendiola followed Clay with 15 points, while Melencio added 14 and Simon 13, highlighted by four triples.

Cebuana Lhuillier stunned Negros, 83-78, in the other game at the USLS Gym in Bacolod City.

Roy Luarca

Second Phase

Standing	W	L
Northern Conference		
LBC Batangas	5	0
Andok's S. J.	2	1
FedEx Laguna	3	2
Nueva Ecija	2	3
Southern Conference		
Negros	3	0
TPG Davao	0	2
Cebuana Lhuillier	0	2
Socsargen	0	5

Games Wednesday
San Juan Gym
3:00 p.m.—Nueva Ecija vs Andok's San Juan
Cebu City Coliseum
5:30 p.m.—FedEx Laguna vs Cebuana Lhuillier

Scores:

FEDEX LAGUNA 142—Clay 39, Mendiola 15, Melencio 14, Simon 13, Regidor 11, Flowers 10, Barbosa 9, Manigo 8, Menor 8, Garcia 8, Nicdao 5, Domingo 2.

TPG DAVAO 107—Marata 24, Dela Rosa 18, Sasuman 18, Bernardo 12, Simon 11, Callao 8, Lopez 6, Maloloy-on 4, Santander 4, Bonleon 2, Daja 0, Concha 0.

Quarters: 27-22, 62-55, 97-83, 142-107.

Naga hosting Youth Games

AT LEAST 14 national sports associations have signified interest to join the 2nd National Youth Games slated Dec. 2-9 in Naga City and other venues in the Bicol region.

Graham Lim, chair of the organizing committee, bared this yesterday after getting confirmation from NSA officials who'll attend an organizational meeting to be hosted by Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok today.

Among those coming to attend are Joaquin Preysler of cycling, Gen. Mario Tanchanco (sepak takraw), Ping Fernandez (taekwondo), Ed Ponce (karatedo), Danny Lopez (gymnastics), Hecotr Navasero (baseball), Louie Gapuela (volleyball), Capt. Rey Jaylo (judo), Boy Codinera (softball), Sultan Kiram (pencak silat) wrestling director Jaime Sebastian and representatives from karatedo, basketball and table tennis.

Also invited to join the games confined to players 18 and under are the NSAs of gymnastics and boxing.

Councilor Julian Lavadia, chair of the Naga City Barangay Council and Region V director of the BAP, heads the organizing committee in Naga. Mayor Sulpicio Roco has also given his support to the games hosted by the province of Laguna last year.

The Department of Interior and Local Government, through Secretary Joey Lina who is considered as the Youth Games godfather, the Philippine Sports Commission and the Tan Yan Kee Foundation chaired by Lucio Tan are expected to support the games also to be held in Daet, Camarines Sur and Legaspi City.

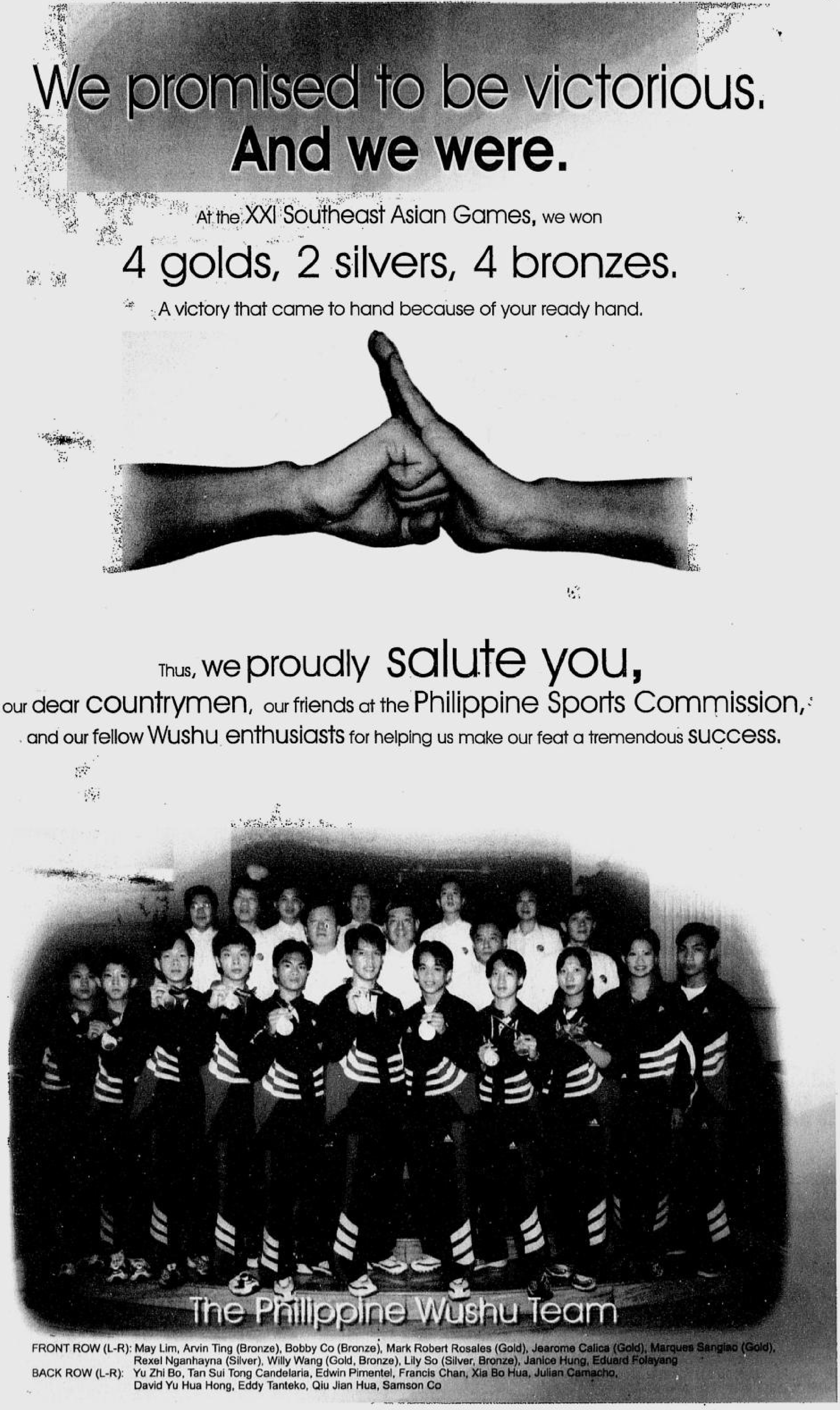
Lim said talks are also underway for IBC 13, through former PSC Chair Philip Juico, to cover the games.

Tracma opens

THE TROVADOR Ramos Academy of Martial Arts opened recently its own training center.

Located at the ground floor of the Consolacion Building in Gen. Santos Avenue, Araneta Center in Cubao, the academy features hand-to-hand combat training style that was developed by legendary Filipino martial arts master Trovador Ramos, a 14th degree red belter. Ramos gained fame in the early '70s when he defeated Hong Kong's late martial arts expert and actor Bruce Lee in a one-on-one duel right in the actor's homeground in the former Crown Colony.

Tracma is being revived to give an opportunity to ordinary people to learn self-defense techniques, according to Trovador Ramos Jr., who now runs the academy as president with the elder Ramos as chair.



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The Philippine Wushu Team

FRONT ROW (L-R): May Lim, Arvin Ting (Bronze), Bobby Co (Bronze), Mark Robert Rosales (Gold), Jearome Calica (Gold), Marques Sangiao (Gold), Rexel Nganhayna (Silver), Willy Wang (Gold, Bronze), Lily So (Silver, Bronze), Janice Hung, Eduard Folayang
BACK ROW (L-R): Yu Zhi Bo, Tan Sui Tong Candelaria, Edwin Pimentel, Francis Chan, Xia Bo Hua, Julian Camacho, David Yu Hua Hong, Eddy Tanteko, Qiu Jian Hua, Samson Co

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Ricky Belmonte 'clinically dead'

Massive stroke hits Star of '66

BY LEAH SALTERIO

ACTOR Ricky Belmonte was pronounced "clinically dead" yesterday at the Parañaque Medical Center after he suffered a massive stroke early Sunday morning.

Belmonte, 54, whose real name is Jesse Cruz, was rushed to the hospital by his younger brother Jeffrey and sister Beth.

His cousin, actor-singer Tirso Cruz III, told the **Inquirer** that according to doctors, Belmonte had suffered cerebral hemorrhage and was still in a coma as of press time yesterday.

Cruz said Belmonte complained of a headache at 2:30 a.m. yesterday. Belmonte was first brought to the Life Alert, a 24-hour clinic in Parañaque.

When his blood pressure did not stabilize after a couple of hours, Belmonte was brought to the Parañaque Medical Center, Cruz said.

The cousin told the **Inquirer** that as of yesterday morning, Belmonte could still talk to his siblings. But before noon, his blood pressure

RICKY/A29

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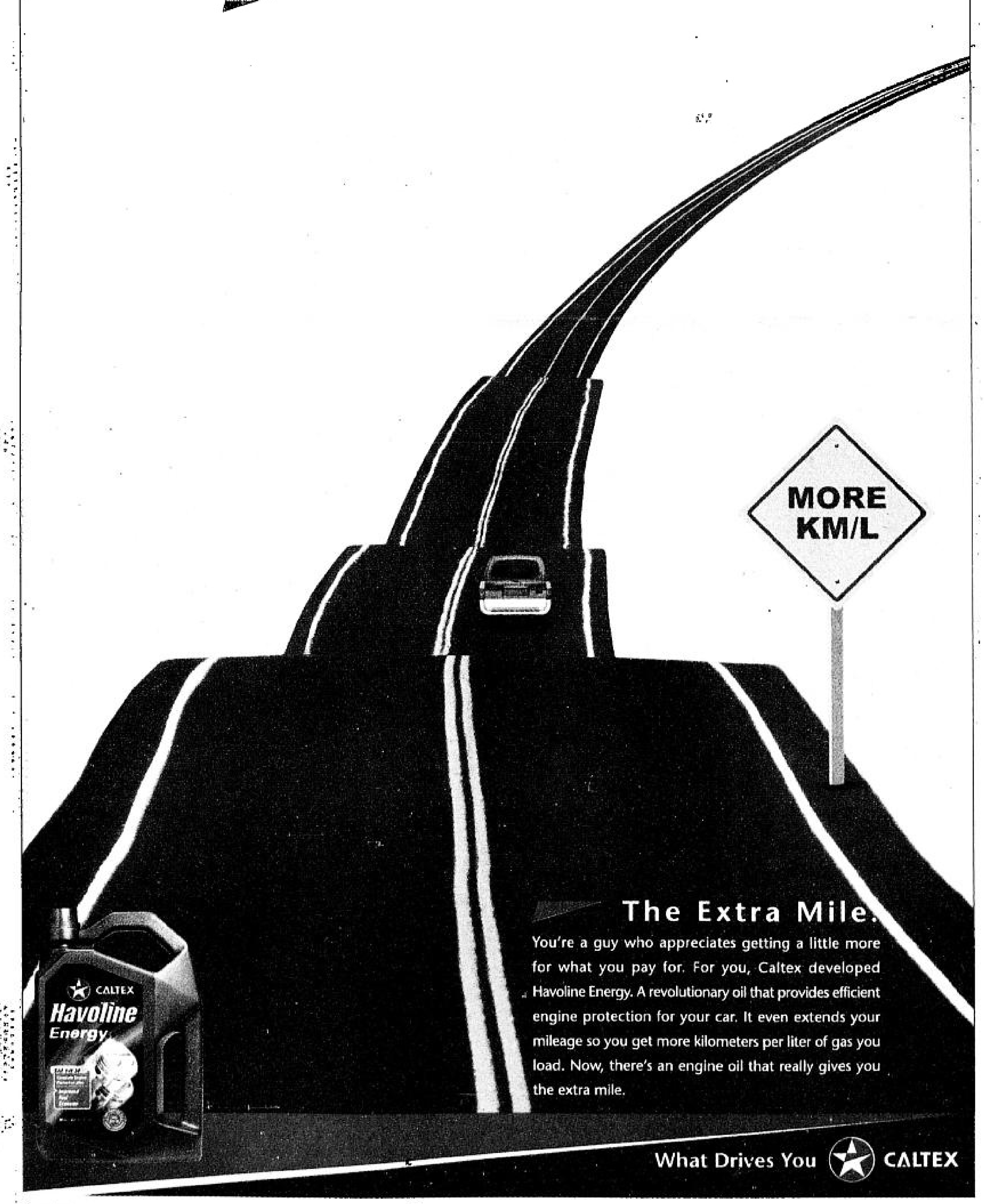

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2. Panfilo Lacson
3. General Michael V

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2 Kung tama ang sagot mo, hintayin ang second question.
3 Para sagutin ang second question, ibaba ang telepono at muling i-dial ang 135-1.
4 Kung tama ang sagot mo, i-text ang pangalan at birthday.
For example:
• Name Entry: Dan Ty
Press 3 once for the letter D, press 2 once for the letter A, press 6 two times for the letter N. Press 0 for space. Press 8 once for the letter T, press 9 three times for the letter Y. Press # two times to submit your name.
• Birthday Entry: July 13, 1965
Press 07131965 to submit your birthday.
5 If you want to send more entries, dial ka uli ng 135-1 at i-text ang sagot. Entries should be sent from 6:00 am to 12:00 mn. Abangan ang resulta ng bola sa newspapers o sa mail.
Araw-araw ang bola, milyun-milyon ang pera!
* TXT 135 service must be activated to join the promo.
Call 171 for inquiries. Each text message costs only P3.00!
Promo period from August 12 to November 16, 2001.
See leaflet for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1257. Series of 2001.
PLDT
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THE POWER TO LIVE THE LIFE YOU CHOOSE
SMART zed™
The biggest text-based quiz game is now even bigger! Join SMART zed
Text to Milli,000,000ns! PART 2
Quiz Game
How would you like to get a text like this?
3 Questions. 3 Answers. Millions in cash prizes at stake.
AVAILABLE THROUGH
SMART GOLD GSM
SMART Buddy pre-paid
TALK 'N TEXT
To Join:
Key in QUIZspaceJOINspace<name>/<address> and send to 288.
Example: QUIZ JOIN FARRAH REYES/109 Herrera Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
To Answer:
Key in QUIZspace<question number>space<answer letter> and send to 288
Example: QUIZ 1 A

Congratulations! You've just won P2,000,000.00!

First Families and Philippine sports

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

THE MESSAGE, with a relevant theme, was faxed to our desk on Sept. 21, more infamously known hereabouts as the day Martial Law was declared. It has a marginal note that said, "Keep up the good fight." For whatever, I don't know.

Anyway, as the well-informed message writer has obviously intended it for public consumption and not merely for my private file, allow me to print it in full. Please read on. It should be worth your while.

* * *

'IT all started during the Marcos era with the appointment of a 'first nephew.' Michael Marcos Keon was the 'sports czar.' And Project: Gintong Alay, which Keon headed, was supposed to have brought about a renaissance in athletics.

"Through Presidential Decree 804, Marcos created the failed Ministry of Youth and Sports Development (MYSD) which, if you think about it, was resurrected through Republic Act No. 6847 establishing the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC). Like the MYSD, the PSC lacks the grassroots organization that caused the abolition of the former, but is now being remedied by the latter by arrogating unto itself the sports functions of the Department of Education.

"With Cory Aquino, it was a 'first brother' that wielded influence in sports. A close associate of Peping Cojuangco, a personality unknown in the sports community named Joey Romasanta, replaced Keon. When the PSC bill was signed into law by Cory in 1990, a close family friend and golfing partner of Peping became the first chair of the PSC in the person of Cecil Hechanova. It was Cory who, by approving the construction of an all-weather track oval in San Fernando, Pampanga through the request of the late Governor Bren Guiao for the Palarong Pambansa in 1990, sparked the mania for building all-weather track ovals, some of which became white elephants.

"We have 17 all-weather track facilities all over the archipelago, 16 funded by the government and, with this, it is a wonder that athletes in the roster of Go Teng Kok's Army number less than 50. We have more all-weather track ovals, costing about P30 million each to construct, than oil-rich Brunei, Vietnam or even SEAG champion Malaysia.

* * *

"The reign of FVR saw three members of the presidential family involved in sports. There was First Lady Ming Ramos who became president of the badminton association; 'first daughter' Cristy was president of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC); and 'first son-in-law,' Freddie Jalasco, who with Lito Puyat's support was 'elected' BAP president, although the repercussions of such a move almost caused us to default our basketball title in the last SEAG.

"The administration of FVR saw the absurdity of the government providing funds for the construction of multi-million sports complexes of international standard in General Santos City and Koronadal, about 50 kilometers apart in the province of South Cotabato; in Pili and Pacol, seven kilometers away from each other in the province of Camarines Sur; and two in Western Visayas, in Iloilo City and Bacolod City, localities where one facility would have sufficed. This was done at the expense of other deserving regions in the country like Eastern Visayas or the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) which do not have any decent sports facility.

"First Son" Jinggoy Estrada was the acknowledged sports czar during Erap's short but tumultuous presidency. It was the first time that a barangay sports coordinator was appointed PSC commissioner. After his stint at the PSC, Commissioner Leonardo Celles successfully ran for vice mayor of San Juan town under the ticket of Mayor JV Estrada, also a son of the deposed President. The case of Celles shows that sports is a stepping stone to attaining political ambition. (Basketball player and referee Tito Varela is now vice mayor of Caloocan City).

* * *

"With the advent of the Arroyo presidency, the tandem of the 'First Gentleman' and a 'first cousin' reigns supreme in sports. Mike Arroyo says there is just no way that cousin PSC Chair Butch Tuason will be given his walking papers after the SEAG. After all, according to the first Gentleman, Her Excellency is pleased with the Philippines winning 30 'real gold,' 66 'near gold,' and 67 'near silver' medals. First cousin Butch will continue to sit in the much-coveted PSC chair.

"The moral of the story is, as former IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch would put: "It is not right to say that politics should not have anything to do with sports. Politicians rule the world." In the Philippines, include in the ruling class members of presidential families and relatives.—*APARICIO H. MEQUI, President, Philippine Association of Physical Educators Inc. (PAPE), 109 Valenzuela St., UP Diliman, Quezon City*

Protest vs 'exorbitant' water fees

BY AGNES DONATO

RESIDENTS of at least 210 private subdivisions in Antipolo City are protesting what they described as exorbitant fees charged by the Manila Water Company Inc. to bring water to their homes.

The federation of United Homeowners Associations of Antipolo (A-Homes) claimed that the MWCI had imposed a minimum of P160,000 per subdivision for the laying of secondary pipes for water service in the subdivisions.

Eleazar Kasilag, A-Homes spokesperson, said residents had been informed that the MWCI had not scheduled water connection in their area before the year 2010.

At present, homeowners in Antipolo rely only on deep wells provided by the subdivision developers. Kasilag said maintenance of their water sources is too expensive for the homeowners.

"MWCI wants each subdivision to spend at least P160,000 for the laying of secondary pipes that will bring water to our homes," he said. "And it even has the nerve to compel us to collect for them.

"We are willing to pay P8,000 to P15,000 per household for interconnection and the monthly consumption, but give us water first," Kasilag said.

The national government has assigned MWCI to take care of the water supply in the eastern part of Metro Manila. The Maynilad Water Services Inc. was given the western portion.

A-Homes president Dante Santos said he has already created a panel to work on the technical and legal aspects of the problem.

Scholarships offered

MSA Academic Advancement Institute is offering full MSA review scholarships to students in Grades 6 and 7 from all public and private schools in Metro Manila and neighboring areas.

The offer is limited to candidates for valedictorian who are invited to participate in MSA's competitive exam to be given on Oct. 13 at 315 Katipunan Road, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

The 40 students who will top the exam will receive full scholarship to MSA's review program for the Philippine Science High School entrance exams. The scholarship includes free tuition and review materials and the use of MSA's facilities. Review classes will be held from Oct. 13 to Dec. 1.

"We hope to motivate students to strive to excel in math and science," says MSA director Merle S. Alferez. Qualified students who would like to take the competitive exam are requested to confirm their attendance before Oct. 6. They may call tel. 434-3693, 925-7544 or 925-7216.

QUALITY TIME DENNIS SABANGAN

Pupils of a preparatory school in Project 7, Quezon City were joined by their parents in a day of fun and games at the Manuel L. Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City yesterday. The park is a popular place for family outings, movie stuntmen's practice sessions, even a circus troupe's rehearsals.

Opposition to P1B land deal 'growing'

MORE local officials and groups in Quezon City are pushing for the revocation of the P1-billion land deal in Greenmeadows III subdivision that former Mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. and Paref-Northfield School for Boys made, according to 4th District Councilor Ariel Inton Jr.

The councilor said more of his colleagues in the city council and sectoral leaders have openly expressed their opposition to the implementation of the memorandum of agreement (MOA) signed by Mathay and Paref for the 50-year rent-free use of a 3.1-hectare open space owned by the Quezon City government in Greenmeadows III.

Inton, who heads the council's committee on justice and human rights, said 1st District Councilor Victor Ferrer Jr. and 4th District Councilor Restituto Malangen have joined other city councilors who earlier confirmed their support for the MOA's revocation.

Inton cited the following reasons:

- Violation of Greenmeadows' low-density zoning classification which allows only the construction in the area of preparatory schools with not more than three floors;
- Contrary to Paref's representations, the MOA does not contain any provision for the construction of a "community park." The MOA only specifies the use of certain facilities which can be shared with residents subject to Paref's approval;
- The MOA changed the land use of the property from being an open space reserved for public parks and playgrounds into an area for a private school with private facilities that can be shared with homeowners;
- Mathay violated the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act when he signed the MOA because it disposed of an inalienable public property to a private entity of which Mathay's daughter-in-law and grandchildren were part.

Ferrer said he "cannot in conscience support the MOA for similar reasons," adding that the only recourse for the council is to rescind it. "We cannot even talk about amending the MOA, because you cannot amend something that is illegal."

Woman posing as PRC officer arrested

AN ALLEGED fixer victimizing examinees at the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) has been arrested.

In an entrapment operation conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) with the assistance of the PRC, Armi Menor Liguid, of Quezon City, was arrested last Friday at the Goldilocks Bakeshop along España, Manila, according to a PRC statement.

The accused was supposed to have collected the "balance of payment" from her latest victim, an examinee in the coming licensure examinations for civil engineers.

Also arrested was Liguid's husband, Marjo Manalo Liguid, whom authorities tagged as an accomplice.

The NBI agents said Liguid used the name and position of Amelia Empaynado, head of the PRC's licensure office, in assuring her victims that they would pass the licensure examinations.

Liguid had victimized hundreds of examinees since 1997, the PRC said. Several victims who came forward claimed her fee ranged from P30,000 to P100,000.

One of her latest victims was a niece of an NBI agent.

Liguid was first arrested in October 1997 based on a complaint, but she remained at large and continued her illegal activities.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 1, 2001
26th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Zec 8:1-8**
Gospel: **Lk 1:46-50**

One day the disciples were arguing about which of them was the most important. But Jesus knew their thoughts, so he took a little child and stood him by his side. Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me. And listen: the one who is found to be the least among you all, is the one who is the greatest."

Then John spoke up, "Master, we saw someone who drove out demons by calling upon your name, and we tried to forbid him because he doesn't follow you with us." But Jesus said, "Don't forbid him. He who is not against you is for you."

Commentary

The gospel passage constitutes the last part of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. After this, Jesus goes to Jerusalem, passing by Samaria. In the passage, the disciples argue who among them is the greatest. It is in the nature of the human heart to aspire for greatness. One would dream of being the greatest teacher; another, the most efficient bookkeeper... to be a "megastar." For believers, the question is who among them is closest to Jesus. Jesus' answer: The greatest is the lowliest in society. The little child is the figure for the smallest and the powerless. One way of being humble is to associate ourselves with the lowliest, giving them a place of importance and preferences in our action.

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'Remember Edgar Bentain'

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

RELATIVES of Casino Filipino employee Edgar Bentain, who was abducted two years ago and has been feared dead, urged authorities not to give up on the investigation of the case.

"The worst thing that could happen to Edgar is to be forgotten, again," said Bentain's brother Edcel in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER yesterday.

He said Edgar's case could again be "shelved," like what allegedly happened during the administration of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Edsel claimed that the National Bureau of Investigation was not doing enough to unmask Bentain's abductors and killers.

He said authorities are now focused on the recent terrorist attacks on the United States and the trial of Estrada for plunder.

Civil society groups have called for a more aggressive investigation of Bentain's disappearance after Estrada was forced into resignation.

Their clamor grew louder after Angelo "Ador" Mawanay surfaced and claimed he knew who were behind the abduction and killing of Bentain.

But Edcel believed his brother's disappearance was somehow also used by the present administration to gain public confidence and to create publicity. "It's all lip service," he said. "They are no different from the previous administration. We're very, very dismayed."

President Macapagal-Arroyo had revealed that there had been attempts to "stonewall" the investigation during the previous administration.

Mawanay had claimed that he and other agents of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force snatched Bentain in January 1999 after he released a videotape showing Estrada, then a presidential candidate, playing baccarat in a hotel casino.

Mawanay alleged that he was part of a six-man team, led by police Superintendents Cesar Mancao and Michael Ray Aquino, that stuffed Bentain into a steel drum which was then buried near a bridge in Bacolor, Pampanga.

Edcel scored NBI agents for consistently denying that the skeletal remains found inside a drum in Bacolor belonged to Edgar even when they had not compared Edgar's dental records with those of the remains, and had not obtained other medical evidence.

The NBI had reportedly claimed that the remains found in Bacolor in 1997 belonged to missing labor leader Prudencio Bation.

Newspaper reports had also quoted Pampanga authorities as saying that the remains of a man had been found in Lubao, Pampanga. But the remains supposedly were not Bentain's.

"How (can they be certain) when they (NBI agents) have not even bothered to check on my brother's medical records?" Edcel said. "What's the basis of their comparison?"

Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police director, also confirmed yesterday that the remains found in Pampanga did not belong to the missing casino employee.

Edcel said the NBI has not been coordinating its investigation with his family probably because there has not been any development.

He said that the last time he talked to NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco, he was told that the bureau would keep a "low-profile" investigation to avoid stalling NBI operations.

"But today it appears that there's no operation at all," Bentain's brother said. "They have forgotten about my brother."

Daughter of ballet artist still missing

BY ALCUIN PAPA

A YOUNG woman whom couturier Pitoy Moreno has been grooming for next year's Binibining Pilipinas beauty pageant has been reported missing since Sept. 14.

Pearly Dawn Sabarre, 18, a native of Tacloban City and daughter of ballet artist Odon Sabarre, was last seen leaving the LPL Center on Leviste Street in Salcedo Village, Makati about 8 a.m. of Sept. 14. She was on her way to the gym of the nearby Makati Sports Club.

Pearly Dawn is 5-foot-8 tall and has long hair. She was wearing red leggings, a white blouse and tennis shoes when she was last seen.

Couturier Moreno was grooming Pearly Dawn as a candidate of the prestigious Binibining Pilipinas beauty pageant, according to the young woman's father.

Sabarre said he had tried calling his daughter on her cell phone but it apparently had been turned off.

"I am afraid that she might be exploited by some unscrupulous elements," he said. "I would be glad if she is with friends."

The Sabarre family had already sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation, the Makati City police and other media entities in the search for his daughter.

PEARLY DAWN Sabarre

Any information leading to the whereabouts of Pearly Dawn may be forwarded to Ms Jo Sabarre at 813-3682, Ms Gloria Salva at 735-7386 or to any police station.

A FOREIGNER'S OPINION

How not to get ripped off by cabbies in the city

I AM a British engineer living and working in the Philippines. I have been here for around 12 months.

I see from recent newspaper articles that the Tourism secretary, Richard Gordon, is tackling the problem of Manila taxi drivers being a little on the unfriendly side. Let me tell you about my journey into Manila during a weekend.

Victory Liner from Olongapo. The seats weren't bolted down properly, many of the windows were badly cracked and some disconcerting creaking noises came from somewhere underneath the vehicle at every turn or dip in the road surface (of which there are many).

The driver must have been desperate to find a comfort room because he was propelling the vehicle forward with great speed and enthusiasm. In the UK I have never experienced a bus trying to lean into bends like a motorcycle. At some point, so great was the tilt that the curtains were leaning almost into the gangway.

It was all in all an experience. One thing you have to say about Victory Liner, however, is that they are an effective, cheap and relatively comfortable way of reaching your destination. Considering the atrocious roads and traffic conditions, they perform a remarkably efficient service.

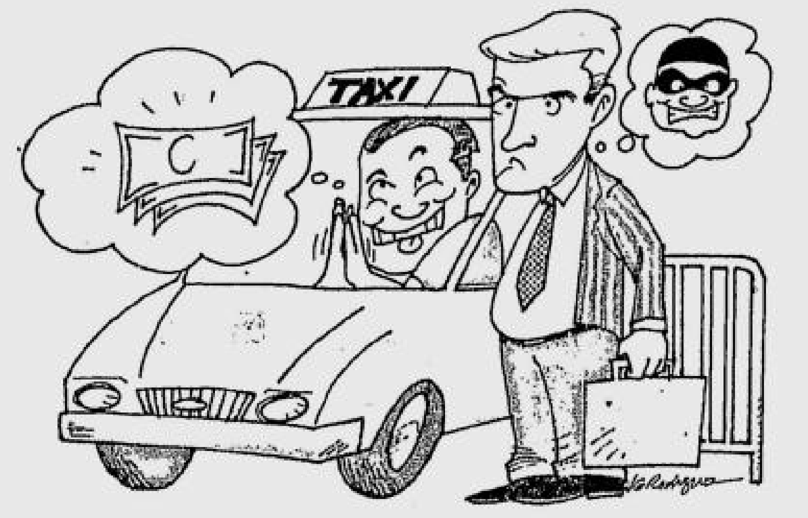
Advice

Arrival in Manila was a different story. As an obvious foreigner I have been accustomed to having Filipinos trying to rip me off virtually everywhere I go (an indictment against Philippine culture? Maybe).

I usually let them get away with it for the experience, then take measures so I don't get bitten again.

The taxi drivers waiting outside the Pasay City bus station were waving their arms around madly, almost falling over each other trying to pick up what appeared to be an arriving tourist.

I have many Filipino friends who were quite concerned about the fact that I might be daring to take a taxi in Manila. Hence the advice was flooding in:



- Speak Tagalog.
- Don't engage the driver in conversation.
- Make a note of the cab's license plate number.
- Make sure the driver uses the meter.
- Quote specific directions, and sound as though you know where you are going.
- Don't argue with the driver until you're safely out of the cab at your destination.
- And above all… be careful.

Meter rate

I have to confess that this last one scared me a little since I've heard a few tales regarding this sort of situation.

So I heeded (most) of the advice given to me, giving instructions and directions in my rather poor Tagalog, grunting at the points where either I didn't want to answer or couldn't understand what he was saying.

My problem was that the advice given didn't include the most basic information—the rate of the meter.

The driver quoted me P10 per hundred meters. I know now that this should have been more like P2 or P4. Anyway, in my ignorance and curiosity I decided to go along with it for the time being.

The piece of advice I didn't follow was the bit about not arguing with the driver. I kept an eye on the meter and when I'd seen enough I told the driver to turn it off or I would get out and walk. It was very slow moving traffic at the time so I had a pretty good chance of succeeding if I had wanted to.

The meter was switched off, I reached my hotel and got out.

Solution

Even with all the advice and my own orders to the driver, I still paid a taxi fare three times than it should have been.

Now I might be considered a stupid foreigner at times and therefore easy picking for any con artist worth his salt. The fact, however, is that like most of the foreign visitors to the Philippine capital, I am not stupid and will not fall for the same stunt twice.

I would be reluctant to use the services of any organization that gave me poor service or tried to rip me off.

On a bigger scale, if it comes to a toss-up between being ripped off in the Philippines and taking my business/investment/skills elsewhere in Southeast Asia where I am going to be treated fairly, then it's goodbye Philippines. I can imagine that any foreigner would think the same way.

The solution? Put the con artists out of business by:

- Licensing taxi drivers?
- Giving free help packs to arriving foreigners indicating recommended pricing, advice, phone numbers, maps etc.?
- Better policing?

My personal solution to the problem of taxi drivers is to carry a mobile phone with me. When I almost reach the capital, I pull out my phone and call an Avis cab. Why? Because when I confronted an Avis driver the following day for my return trip, he quoted me a fair price without argument. I therefore asked for one of his business cards.

See how simple it is? *Steve Gilford, Subic Bay, Olongapo City,* s_gilford@hotmail.com

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METROBRIEFS

Woman falls to death from building

SEBERA Trusdell, 43, was found about 6:30 a.m. yesterday in front of an abandoned building near her house on Governor Pascual Avenue in Malabon, said PO2 Christopher Rodriguez and PO1 Reynaldo Gabatin. They believed Trusdell accidentally slipped and fell 30 feet below from the roof of the building because of drunkenness. But they are not discounting the possibility of foul play. She was last seen alive about 10 p.m. Saturday on her way to her daughter's house, also on Governor Pascual, said her husband Larry. But Trusdell apparently went instead to an abandoned building nearby and climbed to the rooftop, police said. Her relatives told police she usually went there to relax after drinking liquor. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Tricycle runs over carwash man

CARWASH helper Orsolo Pedronio, 42, continued to work even into the early morning hours of Sunday to keep his family afloat. But fate dealt him a bad blow when, right after midnight yesterday, a tricycle ran over him while he was cleaning a taxi along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City. Pedronio, of Barangay Commonwealth, died on the spot after the tricycle Bayron de Leon, 21, was driving hit him, said SPO1 Edgardo Talacay of the Central Police District-Traffic Sector V. De Leon said he did not see Pedronio working at the corner of Kasunduan Street and Commonwealth Avenue because it was dark. De Leon surrendered to police and he was detained at the CPD-Traffic Sector V office. Talacay said he would be charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Man, woman found dead

THE body of an unidentified man was fished out of a river while an unidentified homeless woman died outside a drug store yesterday, both in Quezon City. The woman was described as 25 to 40 years old, medium-built, with long black hair, and was wearing a black shirt and brown pants. The man was 30 to 40 years old, 5-foot-5, and was wearing denim pants, a blue shirt and black Adidas rubber shoes. The woman was found around noon at the back of Carlos Drug store on Ermin Garcia Street in Barangay E. Rodriguez, Cubao, said PO1 Edwin de la Cruz, adding she could have died of hunger or sickness. No external injuries were found on her body. Beside her body was a plastic sack containing dirty, old clothes. The male body was found floating in the Del Monte River in Frisco, Quezon City around 3 p.m. Saturday. Investigators also did not find external injuries.

Philip C. Tubeza

Fetus in a floating shoebox

A SEVEN-MONTH-OLD fetus was found in a shoebox floating in the Lagarian Creek in Quezon City on Saturday. Tong Benavides retrieved the fetus from the creek in Roxas District, said investigator PO1 Joseph Madrid. Police brought the fetus to the Prudential Funeral Homes. Earlier also in Quezon City, a fetus was found abandoned outside a church, another in a public toilet, and a third in another creek. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Robbed right on pay day

WHILE the employees of Kimbels Packaging Inc. were lining up to get their pay on Saturday in their Quezon City office, 10 heavily armed robbers barged in and took more than P200,000 in payroll money right before their eyes. The robbers also took their personal cash and valuables. The robbers took a total of P268,000 from the employees of Kimbels in Project 8, said PO2 Joseph Dino. The company is owned by Herman King-Ty. The culprits, armed with long and short firearms, used an Isuzu Hi-Lander (WHR-188) and a gray Mitsubishi L-300 van with an unknown plate number.

Philip C. Tubeza

Powdered milk van stolen

A CONTAINER van carrying at least P1 million worth of dairy products was stolen by seven armed men while the truck was parked near the Manila International Container Terminal in North Harbor, Tondo late Friday night. Chief Insp. Eduardo Cruz said the van belonged to the Consolidated Dairies Products Inc. on North Bay Boulevard in Tondo. The van contained crates of imported powdered skimmed milk to be used in manufacturing infant food. Rodolfo Vicoy, 51, operations manager of the Inland Corp. that brought the van out of the MICT, said the driver parked the truck so he could urinate when the armed men suddenly surrounded him, then boarded the truck and took the goods. *Jerome Aning*

BENJAMIN ABALOS SR.

The man who would clean up the metropolis

By Nelson F. Flores

FOR BENJAMIN Abalos Sr., Metro Manila's garbage and traffic woes are just the latest challenges he has to hurdle.

Challenges are not new to the man that President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo appointed to head the highly controversial Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

A son of a runaway from a Pangasinan town, Abalos endured extreme poverty during his early days but he turned this into a challenge. At 66, he is a successful businessman, fishpond operator and an accomplished politician.

Born to Ciriaco Abalos and Eufrocina Santos on Sept. 21, 1935, Abalos and his siblings had to do menial work to survive and get some schooling.

"My parents allowed a close relative of ours to adopt my younger sister Rosalinda to ensure her future," he said. "She is now a successful accountant in the United States."

The first among the Abalos family member to earn a college degree and become a professional, Abalos worked his way through school alternately as a caddy at the exclusive Wack Wack Golf and Country Club and as a factory worker and a janitor. He would have wanted to become a doctor but economic difficulties prevented him from going to medical school. But his younger brother Eduardo became a doctor later.

ABALOS

Janitor to manager

Abalos took up Law instead, and in 1957, he earned a law degree from the Manuel Luis Quezon University Law School and passed the bar the same year. After passing the bar, he was made a manager of the factory where he worked as janitor. He quit his job to become a member of the judiciary, and he won his first case as a lawyer when he defended a family of four accused in the murder of a Manila Electric lineman.

In 1960, he married Corazon Pineda de Castro and had five children, all of them now professionals: Ma. Corazon, Benjamin Jr. (Benhur), Arnold, Jonathan and Joy.

Three years later, he ran for vice mayor of Mandaluyong but lost to Renato Lopez, a member of an influential local political family. In 1964, he became an auxiliary judge of Makati and Pasay.

A year later, President Diosdado Macapagal appointed him as a Manila fiscal, a post he held for two years before he became the lone municipal judge of Pasig, which was then the provincial capital of Rizal province.

Retiring from the judiciary in 1979, Abalos became a businessman and fishpond operator, running fishponds in Paombong, Bulacan; Dagupan, Binmaley and Lingayen in Pangasinan; and Lubao in Pampanga.

Against Marcos

In 1980, he again ventured in politics running for mayor of Mandaluyong under the Nationalista party. But according to Abalos, then President Ferdinand Marcos did not allow him to assume his post for his critical views of the administration.

"That was when Neptali Gonzales and I became friends," Abalos said. "We got involved in the active struggle against Marcos."

He became OIC mayor of Mandaluyong in 1986 when President Corazon Aquino appointed him following Marcos' ouster.

In 1988, he was elected mayor of Mandaluyong, holding the post until 1998. His son Benhur succeeded him. But it was in the older Abalos' 10-year tenure as mayor of Mandaluyong that the town by the Pasig River grew into prosperity and finally became a city.

Retiring from politics, Abalos used his retirement funds to acquire an eight-hectare fishpond in Pilar, Bataan. He is now engaged in the growing of milkfish and "sugpo" fry, which he sells mainly to Japanese clients.

He also was able to acquire about 250 hectares of fishponds in several towns in Iloilo.

Caddy to president

Abalos was also elected as president of Wack Wack Golf and Country Club, where he spent his early years as a caddy more than 40 years ago.

"I started as a caddy here and now I am the club's president," he said. "Most of my constituents here were my former bosses."

Abalos drew inspiration from his fishpond operation to continue his work as a public servant. He saw in the 15 families that he employs the strength he nurtured to overcome his poverty.

"Their struggle to live comfortably reminds me of how I struggled then," he said.

Abalos said that for every P1 invested, a fishpond operator could earn as much as P30. With government support, the fishing industry could become an engine of national growth and bring wealth to a lot of ordinary people, he said.

Deep in garbage

As MMDA chair, Abalos is deep into garbage and solutions to the problem. He admitted that he had wanted to quit the post several times. But he said that when he sees the ordinary government worker commuting to work daily, he is reminded of his personal pledge to live life as a loyal public servant himself.

He is trying to learn more about solid waste management that he said had been proven successful in several countries in Asia, Europe and North America. A solution to Metro Manila's garbage problem, he said, could be found only through constant experimentation.

"It appears that these new methods of waste management are environment friendly, hence politically correct," he observed.

He said he intends to solve the garbage and traffic problems of Metro Manila as the crowning glory of a career and a life that have turned out well against all odds.

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3 nabbed for pushing drugs

CAMP Gen. Garcia, Imus, Cavite—Three suspected big drug pushers were arrested by anti-narcotics men of the Cavite Philippine National Police provincial office during separate buy-bust operations in Imus and Dasmariñas towns.

Police identified the suspects as Alex Sulpan, 45, and his wife Amina, 47, both natives of Marawi City and residents of Barangay Datu Ismael, Dasmariñas, Cavite and Gaspar Abad, 55, of Imus.

Senior Insp. Antonio C. Yarra, chief of Cavite PNP's Drug Enforcement Unit, said his men also confiscated from the Sulpans about 110 grams of shabu and about 200 grams from Abad, according to a statement from the Cavite PNP.

Yarra said the Sulpans were caught Friday after they sold the prohibited drug to a police officer who posed as a buyer at their residence in Barangay Datu Ismael. Yarra's men also picked up two men suspected of being drug users in the Sulpan residence—Mamasaranao Guro, 22, and a 16-year-old.

Yarra said his men had been watching the couple for several weeks following reports of their illegal drug activities.

He said agents of the DEG and the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group arrested Abad in a buy-bust operation in front of the Lotus Mall in Imus last Wednesday, after he sold around 200 grams of shabu to PO2 Vicente Tariao.

Copa secretary general sets up pro-poor fund in his wife's memory

ON THE night he celebrated his 50th birthday, Pastor "Boy" Saycon immortalized his late wife Becky.

Saycon, or Boy, gave Assumption College, his late wife's alma mater, a sizable contribution that will enable the school to establish the scholarship fund known as the Rebecca G. Saycon Endowment Fund.

Saycon, secretary general at the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa), will be the first to tell you about how special Assumption College was to him and Becky.

"Becky was a graduate of Assumption College," said Sister Luz Soriano, who accepted the contribution in behalf of the school. She said Saycon's contribution is actually the realization of Becky's vision to help the less fortunate.

"The Rebecca G. Saycon Endowment Fund is a perpetual scholarship fund for the benefit of poor but deserving students," Sr. Luz said during Saycon's birthday celebration at the NBC Tent at the Fort on July 8.

"Our priority are those who will be entering the college level," Sr. Luz said. "Our goal is to get seven to 10 students."

She explained that "in perpetuity" means that they would not be taking in students as scholars yearly but would only do so when the earlier scholars are already graduates.

"We will only take in new ones when the previous batch has graduated," she said.

She said the school plans to use 70 to 80 percent of the contribution for the fund and to keep the 20 percent as principal.

Saycon is no stranger to giving donations and contributions to a variety of institutions and socio-civic organizations.

WITNESSED by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Saycon turns over the contribution that will start the Rebecca G. Saycon Endowment Fund, to Assumption College's Sister Luz Soriano. Also witnessing the turnover are Rebecca's mother Lourdes Garkell and Mrs. Leticia Saycon.

Carey film greeted with howls of laughter

REST, MARIAH. That's what the singer needs, following her nervous breakdown, says her record producer.

NEW YORK—Just a few short months ago, Mariah Carey appeared to be reaching new heights in her already spectacular career: She signed a new record contract worth a reported $100 million and was looking forward to the release of her new album and first starring role in a film.

But after her recent breakdown, a mixed response to her new album and poor advance word on her new movie, her career appears to be at a crossroads.

"The buzz is not good, and I think that's one of the reasons why she's feeling a lot of pressure," John Bitzer, editor-producer of the music Web site CDNOW, said of her projects.

The first-week sales of her album—the soundtrack to her movie "Glitter"—totaled 116,339, compared to 323,000 in the first-week sales of her last album, 1999's "Rainbow," according to Soundscan, which tracks record sales.

And although "Glitter" is the only major film to be released this week, it seems unlikely to receive a critical boost: At a media screening, there were howls of laughter throughout the film, a drama in which Carey plays a singer who skyrockets to stardom during the 1980s. (Associated Press film reviewer Christy Lemire called Carey's film "a preposterous, poorly written love letter to herself.")

Exhausted

"It's her first real movie, so she's got a lot to prove," said Emil Wilbekin, editor of Vibe magazine. "(But) it's hard to be a winner when there are all these reports about nervous breakdowns."

The 31-year-old singer was hospitalized in July for what her publicist labeled as "emotional and physical exhaustion." At the time, Carey was making a big promotional push for "Glitter," her first album for Virgin Records under a contract that reportedly nets her $20 million per album.

However, the first single from the disc, "Loverboy," received lukewarm response on the radio and only leapt up the charts after it was released at a discounted price of 49 cents. The strain on Carey became evident after she made a few disoriented public appearances and statements; soon after that, she was under psychiatric care.

News of Carey's breakdown didn't come as a complete surprise to producer Jimmy Jam, who worked on Carey's soundtrack. Jam said that not only did Carey write or co-write much of the album's material, she oversaw the music in the film and was involved in the editing, while working on another movie ("Wisegirls" with Mira Sorvino) and promoting "Glitter."

'Scattered'

"It wasn't a shock at all," said Jam. "I think Mariah is a person that burns the whole candle. In our short time working together... she not only works really, really hard but works on many, many things at the same time."

Jam talked to Carey shortly before she was hospitalized in July, and recalled that the singer sounded "scattered."

"We had a 10-minute phone call and talked about 20 different things," he said.

Both the "Glitter" movie and soundtrack were to be released in August, but were pushed back a month to give Carey time to recuperate and restart a publicity campaign. The album was released Sept. 11.

She was scheduled to sit down with Barbara Walters for a prime-time interview earlier this month, but canceled the interview and was reportedly hospitalized again, this time in a psychiatric unit in Los Angeles.

Carey has begun to re-emerge. On Thursday her publicist, Cindi Berger, said the singer is "doing great right now," and later that evening, Carey went to a premiere of "Glitter" in Los Angeles.

The lackluster radio response to "Loverboy," was a departure for Carey, one of the world's best-selling artists who has posted 14 No. 1 hits since her debut on Columbia Records in 1990. She's enjoyed each debut single from every one of her albums hitting No. 1—until now.

Fans confused

Carey's stardom was forged from a wholesome image and soaring ballads that highlighted her multi-octave voice.

But over the last few years, her image has changed. After her divorce from Tommy Mottola, the former president of Columbia and current Sony Music chief, her once demure image became sexier; she also switched musically, using more hip-hop beats instead of the adult contemporary sound that made her famous.

Wilbekin believes both things have confused some of her fans and caused her record sales to dip.

"There's definitely room for her to do well, but I think people want a certain type of music from a certain artist, and from Mariah Carey, they want beautiful love songs... and I don't think they want to see her half-naked."

Bitzer doubts "Glitter" will come anywhere of matching the success of her previous albums, but said: "I think her fan base will come to her rescue to some degree."

For now, though, Jam said Carey simply needs to do what she has been doing—rest.

"There's a difference between working hard and working smart," he said. "I think there's a way to work hard but also work smart." *AP*

Hollywood too afraid of public opinion to make terrorism films, says Allen

ALLEN

LONDON—Filmmaker Woody Allen says Hollywood studios will be too afraid of outraging public opinion to make films about the terrorist attacks in the United States.

But the subject will be "fair game" for independent filmmakers, the noted American director said.

"I think there will be a lot of trepidation in commercial cinema about that subject matter," he said at Britain's National Theater on Thursday night. "I am sure the people in Hollywood, whose main drive in films is to make money, would feel any reference or use of the word hijack or any reference to anything violent or remotely associated to that terrible tragedy would lose customers for them.

"That will be the only criterion that would matter and so they will force the minions that work for them to remove these things from their movies or not make movies about that subject," he said.

Allen said he would not make a film about the attacks because his work centers on comedy and psychology.

Filmmakers could offer valuable, artistic insights into the tragedy, he said.

"If the idea occurred to me I wouldn't hesitate," Allen said.

"But any of the genuine artists working in film could very, very likely have ideas and inspiration that revolve around this tragedy or any tragic event and they won't hesitate to make the films," he said. "What is important to them is not the box office but confronting the problem and trying to have some sort of insight into the problem."

Discussing his own career, Allen said his ambition is to make one great film.

"I would like to, but I don't think it is going to happen," he said.

Speaking of his films, Allen said, "Most of them I don't like at all, I am very critical about them." *AP*

More raunchy, sensitive and updated, Teysie's team returns

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

HOW does a veteran stand-up comedienne celebrate 20 years as an entertainer?

Tessie Tomas, who started her career on TV's now-defunct gag show, "Champoy," will mark two decades in the business with a four-night series, "Teysi @ Tweynti," at the Music Museum.

As Tessie looks back at those glorious 20 years, she also reminisces how she has matured as a performer.

"I cannot be as raunchy as I used to be," Tessie says. "But my comedy is still very biting, although I am now more sensitive. I have a sense of balance and I know what is below the belt and what is acceptable.

"When I did my first stand-up comedy show, 'Miss Margarida's Way,' I didn't know that on the second level of the show venue was a bath house."

One of risqué characters was call girl Bonnie Buendia, who became popular while "street beauties" such as Brandy Ayala and Claudia Zobel emerged in the movies. To look the part, Tessie had to wear sexy outfits and talk vulgar.

Tessie was "politicized" when she did the very popular "Meldita," a spoof on former First Lady **Imelda Marcos**.

She is aware, however, that her shows are never for a GP (general patronage) audience. "Kids and teens will not enjoy politics," Tessie maintains. "Neither will they be allowed to hear vulgar language.

"I remember my audience nailed me on the cross when I played a prostitute coming out of a ballot box in the 'Rock da Vote' series."

On Oct. 12, 13, 26 and 27, Tessie will bring back her popular characters in her series at Music Museum.

"You'll see an updated version of Meldita in a Christina Aguilera outfit," she grants. "Bonnie Buendia meets Ms Tika, who is **John Lapus**, in a Micky Belo Taba Center. Imee meets Kris, who will be played by **Jon Santos.** And there will also be a segment with Sharon (Cuneta) and KC (Concepcion)."

Tessie also gets to play the "president," this time as Gloria Aray-Ko in a "Private Conversation" with guest **Boy Abunda**.

She will introduce a new character, dance show host Charing Gonthaleth, the Dance Empress.

For all the characters, old and new, Tessie will wear wardrobe by **Maxie Cinco**.

Just like her previous shows, Tessie conceptualized "Teysie @ Tweynti," with the script written by **Joel Mercado** and **Ricky Lopez**. **Floy Quintos** directs.

"I promised myself that when I'm onstage, I'm not Tessie Tomas the TV host. I've learned to compartmentalize my character from my personality."

'Golden Girl'

WHEN Mitch Valdes **was first asked to be the president of the Organisasyon ng Pilipinong Mang-aawit (OPM) in 1987, she turned it down.**

"I was a member of the board at that time, but I wasn't ready for such a difficult responsibility," Mitch says. "I didn't think I could be a good president because I hated meetings and I didn't like dictating to people. I used to hate everything that I do now."

The following year, Mitch was again offered the position. This time, she accepted it.

"On my first year, *naglasing ako,*" she nonchalantly shares. "I never imagined that I could head such an organization."

But Mitch has been OPM president for 13 years now, relentless in waging fights for local artists. And she doesn't regret it.

"OPM woke me up to the other side of the coin in my profession," she says. "I wouldn't have become as active and vocal in the issues we have been fighting for if not for the organization. I have become more courageous in fighting for issues that affect the people."

From being a true-blue *colegiala*, **Alma Vaca** leaped into the exciting and "*baduy*" world of show biz. She first made Filipino audience laugh in the top-rating '70s gag show, "Super Laff-In." From there, she ventured into various arenas of performing, for she has always been a versatile talent.

"Even when I was in college, I was oriented in theater acting," Mitch says. "My first theater role was that of a harlot in 'The Skin of Our Teeth' by **Thornton Wilder**. Believe it or not, that play made me wear a '20s bathing suit."

Mitch also proved herself as a serious actress. In the 1976 **Lino Brocka** film, "Lunes, Martes, Miyerkules, Huwebes, Biyernes, Sabado, Linggo," she earned a best supporting actress trophy.

The role of a singing-dancing stripper in Olongapo required her to wear a sequined G-string and bra before a live audience.

She also appeared in critically acclaimed films like **Peque Gallaga**'s "Oro, Plata, Mata" and **Mario O'Hara**'s "Bulaklak ng City Jail."

TOMAS. Marks 20 years in show biz.

VALDES. Versatile performer.

Now at 50, Mitch shares her glorious years as an artist in a concert series, "Golden Girl, Diva-h?," Oct. 13, 20 and 27 at Onstage in Greenbelt. The shows are produced by Maxi-Media International. Musical director is Lorrie Illustre.

Tickets to Nora's concert

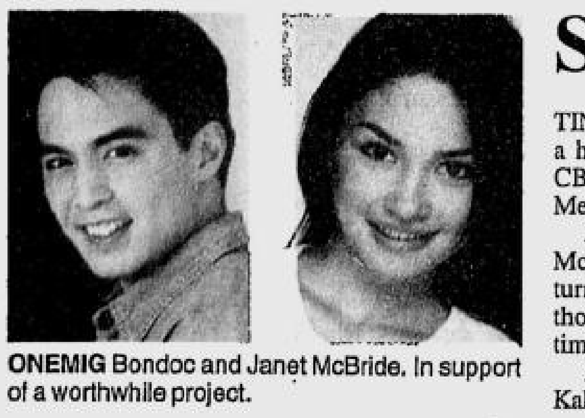
A NUMBER of Noranians have been inquiring about tickets to **Nora Aunor**'s two-night concert at the Music Museum on Oct. 18 and 19.

Tickets are available at the Music Museum, all branches of National Bookstore and at the CCP ticket office, at P1,200, P1,000 and P700. Call 0917-834-8839 or 524-3744.

"The Legend . . . Live" is mounted by Ace Entertainment, with **Boy Palma** as producer and **Norie Sayo** as musical director.

Nora personally chose **Jo Awayan** to be her special guest. They will do a rock medley together.

Nora has prepared a repertoire of favorite tunes from the '60s and '70s, including "Didn't We," "Here Comes the Sun," "Can't Buy Me Love," "Moonlight Serenade," "I Will," "People" and "Softly."


ONEMIG Bondoc and Janet McBride. In support of a worthwhile project.

Show biz stars lend a helping hand for the environment

TINSELTOWN'S brightest stars will lend a helping hand to raise funds for ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Kalikasan "La Mesa Watershed Reforestation Project."

Joyce Jimenez, Onemig Bondoc, Janet McBride, Dominic Ochoa and model-turned-actress Michelle Bayle are among those who have generously given their time in support of this worthwhile project.

ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Kalikasan project has been singly appointed to be the beneficiary of the Chivas 200 local auctions, to be held starting Oct. 5 until Nov. 16 in Manila's premier bars and restaurants.

Participating establishments include Chef and Brewer, Venezia, Dish in Rockwell, Blue Onion, Shiraz, Il Ponticello, Moomba and Ponana.

Chivas Regal is celebrating 200 years as the world's premium scotch whisky through an unprecedented on-line global auction.

In the Philippines, a series of local auctions will be conducted with items which are expected to raise considerable amounts for La Mesa Watershed.

Celebrity participation included in the auction are a date with Joyce Jimenez, lunch with Onemig Bondoc, a make-over session with Angel Aquino as a personal consultant, an exclusive CD compilation by music denizen Toti Dalmacion and a once-in-a-lifetime experience as a walk-in role in a Star Cinema film or being a guest reporter in Studio 23's News Central.

ABS-CBN Foundation managing director Gina Lopez advocated the preservation of the environment through her "Bantay Kalikasan" program.

Within "Bantay Kalikasan," Lopez has launched extension programs such as "Bantay Basura," "Bantay Usok" and "Bantay Baterya." All of these initiatives are oriented towards protecting the environment from harmful, degenerative elements.

Mark Gil's son is new record artist, with first album produced by Regine

GABBY Eigenmann has been busy preparing his debut album from Neo Records.

Yes, Gabby, son of award-winning actor Mark Gil and grandson of Eddie Mesa and Rosemarie Gil, will launch his debut album "Loving" at the Megastrip of SM Megamall from 7:30 to 10 p.m. on Oct. 3. The launch will have a street party concept and Gabby will show off his new look, a collaboration between stylist Jay Feliciano and ace photographer Ronnie Salvacion.

The album features 12 songs by composers Mon Espia, Lisa Dy and Chat Zamora, Christine Bendebel, Arnel de Pano. Janno Gibbs and Ogie Alcasid, Gabby's co-hosts on "SOP," contributed a song each. The carrier single and title track "Loving" by Christine Bendebel is also rendered in Spanish, with lyrics by Gabby's grandmother Rosemarie Gil.

Gabby got to work with Asia's Songbird Regine Velasquez who produced the album for her own company, Songbird Music. Gabby is Songbird Music's very first artist.

The album took a year to finish because Regine wanted time to choose the best songs, composers and arrangers. She went to the recording sessions and even backed up Gabby in some of the songs.

Gabby is no stranger to singing. His father Mark and grandfather Eddie Mesa both sing well. Gabby also took voice lessons from Edward Granadosin of 3 of a Kind and worked with vocal coach Zebedee Zuniga of The Opera.

The Oct. 3 album launch will be graced by Gabby's co-workers and friends in the industry: Cacai Velasquez, Angelika de la Cruz, Maxine, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Nyoy Volante and the First Circle Band. It will be hosted by Dingdong Dantes, and will also feature the special participation of Regine and Ogie Alcasid.

Buyers of the album will get 10 percent discount coupons from Buffalo Jeans by David Bitton.

BELMONTE with daughter Sheryl.

World Cleanup Day

LA SALLE volunteers cleaning up the San Juan-Mandaluyong River.

BOY SCOUTS at the Manila Bay seawall on Roxas Boulevard

AS PART of the recent International Coastal Cleanup and World Cleanup Day, volunteers from La Salle and boy scouts picked garbage along the Manila Bay seawall and the San Juan-Mandaluyong River.

About 200 boy scouts and senior scouts of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines Manila Council trooped to Roxas Boulevard and gathered the garbage packing the seawall.

In earlier years, La Salle Greenhills volunteers picked up trash and debris on some beaches in Batangas. This year, they focused on the San Juan-Mandaluyong River.

The 105 La Salle volunteers were divided into six groups that studies Mandaluyong's history, the flow of the San Juan-Mandaluyong River, the segregation scheme of the Environment Sanitation Center, the waste disposal scheme of the Metro Manila Development Authority, and undertook the actual cleanup drive and the segregation of the garbage.

Led by the Adult Ministry of the Center for Spiritual Development, the volunteers were composed of grade school, high school and adult night high school students, administrators, faculty and support staff. They cleaned portions of the river near the Sevilla Bridge and surrounding areas and collected about 50 sacks of debris mostly plastic containers, wrappers and other discarded household materials.

The third Saturday of September is the International Coastal Cleanup Day in more than 100 countries including the Philippines. A drive started by the Center for Marine Conservation in Washington DC, the local annual cleanup was initiated by the International Marinelife Alliance Philippines.

Ricky Belmonte 'clinically dead'

(From page A 25)

shot up and he sank into a coma, Cruz said.

"He was unconscious until yesterday afternoon and was still in critical condition," Tirso said. "Three heart specialists were attending to him in the intensive care unit of the hospital."

Cruz was in the hospital with his wife Lynn Ynchausti-Cruz.

Belmonte has been living with his other brother Danny, whose house is beside those of their other siblings at BF Para□aque.

Belmonte's only daughter, Sheryl Cruz, and youngest son Patrick, who are both based in San Francisco, have been advised about his condition, Cruz said.

Belmonte's eldest son, Renzo Cruz (formerly known as Wowie), was the only child who was with him in the hospital yesterday afternoon.

Belmonte's former wife, Rosemarie Sonora, has remarried in the US. She is also based in San Francisco.

Sheryl left show business and was married to businessman Norman John Bustos, with whom she has a daughter, Ashley Nicole, now six months old.

After his two children left for the States, Belmonte sold the family house in Valle Verde in Pasig City.

He is part of the cast of ther ABS-CBN soap "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan," playing the husband of Helen Gamboa.

Belmonte was one of the biggest stars of the '60s. He was part of popular Stars of '66 of Sampaguita Pictures, with his former wife Rosemarie, Pepito Rodriguez, Gina Pare□o, Shirley Moreno, Bert Leroy Jr., Roger Calvin, the late Loretta Marquez, and the late Dindo Fernando.

Belmonte shifted to playing character roles in the '90s and starred with some of today's biggest action stars such as Rudy Fernandez, Phillip Salvador and Bong Revilla Jr.

Trial courts moving to Ombudsman's office

SEVERAL regional trial courts at the Manila City Hall will soon be moved to the Office of the Ombudsman Building on Arroceros street, Mayor Lito Atienza announced.

In his weekly media forum last week, Atienza said the move was recently allowed by Supreme Court Justice Hilario Davide Jr., Ombudsman Aniano Desierto and Department of Justice officials.

The mayor said that the transfer of several trial halls, judges' chambers and court employees' offices is meant to decongest the third, fourth and fifth floors of City Hall, where more than 50 RTCs are crammed.

He said the city building officials and RTC executive Judge Marino Guariña III have yet to determine how many and which of the courts would be moved.

The mayor renewed his request for assistance from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in helping build a new and permanent Hall of Justice for the city's RTCs and metropolitan trial courts and the city prosecutors' offices.

Jerome Aning

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Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	J BROTHERS KNIGHTS	FREDDIE A. OCT. 24 ☎936.9757
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EXAMINER'S LITE n' LIVE #52 EXAMINER ST., Q.C.	BAND AT WORK HAPPY & THEA	P 150 CONSUMABLE 373.2221/373.7183
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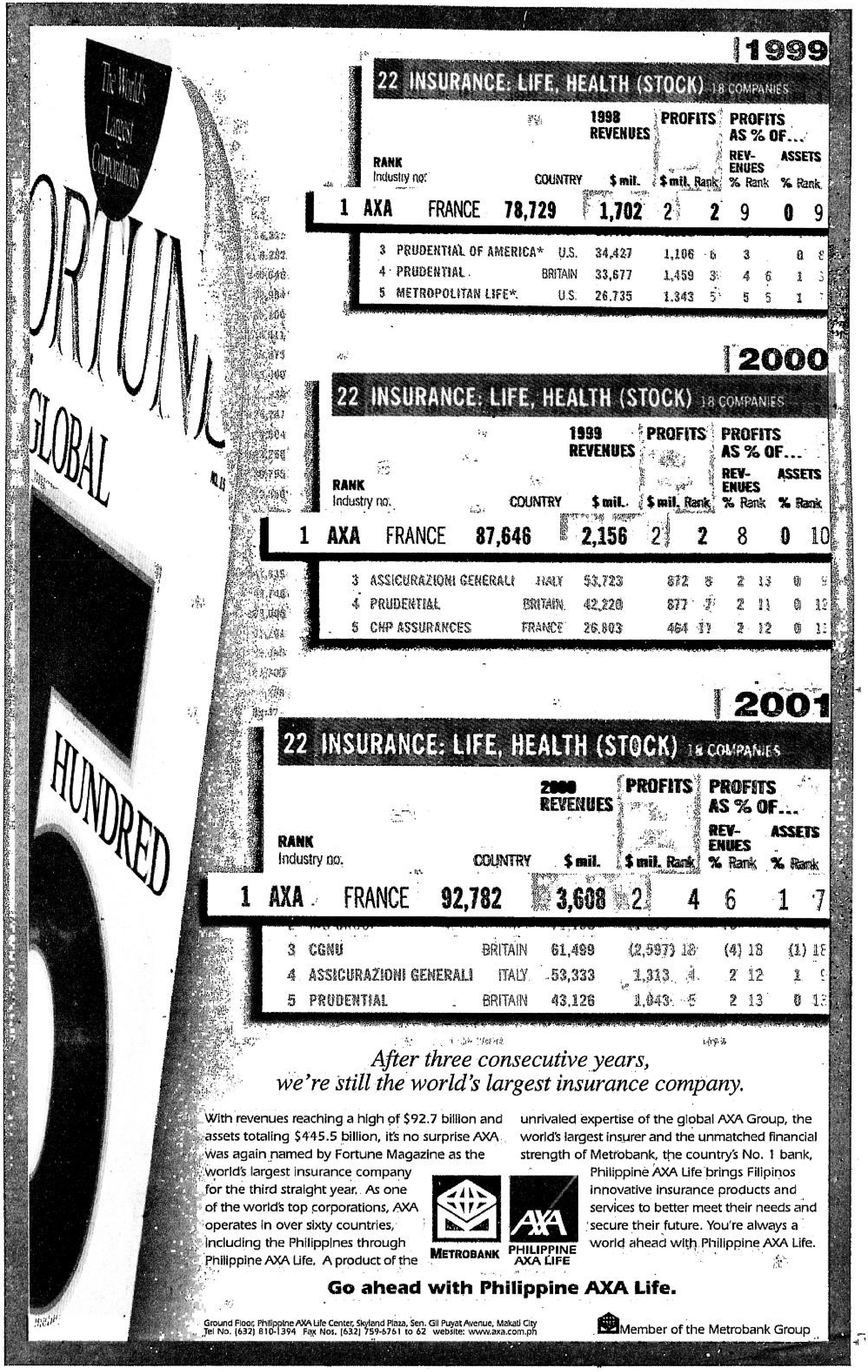

1999

22 INSURANCE: LIFE, HEALTH (STOCK) 18 COMPANIES

RANK Industry no.		COUNTRY	1998 REVENUES $ mil.	PROFITS $ mil.	PROFITS Rank	PROFITS AS % OF... REVENUES %	Rank	ASSETS %	Rank
1	AXA	FRANCE	78,729	1,702	2	2	9	0	9
3	PRUDENTIAL OF AMERICA*	U.S.	34,427	1,106	6	3		0	
4	PRUDENTIAL	BRITAIN	33,677	1,459	3	4	6	1	
5	METROPOLITAN LIFE*	U.S.	26,735	1,343	5	5	5	1	

2000

22 INSURANCE: LIFE, HEALTH (STOCK) 18 COMPANIES

RANK Industry no.		COUNTRY	1999 REVENUES $ mil.	PROFITS $ mil.	PROFITS Rank	PROFITS AS % OF... REVENUES %	Rank	ASSETS %	Rank
1	AXA	FRANCE	87,646	2,156	2	2	8	0	10
3	ASSICURAZIONI GENERALI	ITALY	53,723	872	8	2	13	0	
4	PRUDENTIAL	BRITAIN	42,220	877	7	2	11	0	
5	CNP ASSURANCES	FRANCE	26,803	464	11	2	12	0	

2001

22 INSURANCE: LIFE, HEALTH (STOCK) 18 COMPANIES

RANK Industry no.		COUNTRY	2000 REVENUES $ mil.	PROFITS $ mil.	PROFITS Rank	PROFITS AS % OF... REVENUES %	Rank	ASSETS %	Rank
1	AXA	FRANCE	92,782	3,608	2	4	6	1	7
3	CGNU	BRITAIN	61,499	(2,597)	18	(4)	18	(1)	18
4	ASSICURAZIONI GENERALI	ITALY	53,333	1,313	4	2	12	1	
5	PRUDENTIAL	BRITAIN	43,126	1,043	5	2	13	0	

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8	SISID
9	KNIGHT'S TALE
10	SCARY MOVIE 2

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1	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
2	ENEMY AT THE GATES
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	KNIGHT'S TALE
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	HEART BREAKERS
8	PRINCESS DIARIES
9	ORIGINAL SIN
10	SCARY MOVIE 2
11	LA VIDA ROSA
12	SISID

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1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	ENEMY AT THE GATES
6	KNIGHT'S TALE
7	SISID
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	LA VIDA ROSA
10	BANYO QUEEN
11	SCARY MOVIE 2
12	PRINCESS DIARIES

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3	PRINCESS DIARIES
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5	HEART BREAKERS
6	KNIGHT'S TALE
7	ENEMY AT THE GATES
8	SCARY MOVIE 2
9	LA VIDA ROSA
10	SISID
11	BANYO QUEEN
12	A.I.

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	SISID
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	LA VIDA ROSA

DIGITAL dts SOUND DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND•EX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	PRINCESS DIARIES
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	HEART BREAKERS
6	ORIGINAL SIN
7	FAST & FURIOUS
8	PRINCESS DIARIES
9	SISID
10	LA VIDA ROSA
11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	ENEMY AT THE GATES

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	FAST & FURIOUS
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	KNIGHT'S TALE
6	SISID
7	CLOSED
8	PRINCESS DIARIES
9	ORIGINAL SIN
10	ENEMY AT THE GATES

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	SISID

SM CEBU
2313870

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	KNIGHT'S TALE
3	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	MANO MANO 2
6	BANYO QUEEN
7	SCARY MOVIE 2

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	KNIGHT'S TALE
2	CLOSED
3	SUGAR & SPICE
4	SEX MEDUSA
5	MANO MANO 2
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	CLOSED
8	SCARY MOVIE 2

SM PAMPANGA
7120015

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	CROCODILE 2
4	BANYO QUEEN
5	SISID
6	LA VIDA ROSA

SM SUCAT
8294075

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	FAST & FURIOUS
4	SISID

SM DAVAO

1	SOON TO OPEN 6 STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE THEATERS
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

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GLORIETTA 1
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1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	HEART BREAKERS
4	SISID (Adv. Screening)

GLORIETTA 4

1	LA VIDA ROSA	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	FAST & FURIOUS	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	FAST & FURIOUS THX	in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	FERDINANDO & CAROLINA (Exclusive Phil. Pemiere) Art Film	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	HEART BREAKERS	in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	PRINCESS DIARIES	in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	ORIGINAL SIN	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	LA VIDA ROSA	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	FAST & FURIOUS	in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	HEART BREAKERS	in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	OGIE SINGS ALCASID OCT. 5 & 6 Onstage	

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	FAST & FURIOUS THX	in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	HEART BREAKERS	in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	PRINCESS DIARIES	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	SISID (Adv. Screening)	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	LA VIDA ROSA	in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
2 (SDDS)	HEART BREAKERS
3 (DTS)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
4 GOLD (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
6 GOLD (SDDS)	ORIGNAL SIN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8 ([illegible])	SISID
9 ([illegible])	LA VIDA ROSA
10 ([illegible])	LA VIDA ROSA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	HEART BREAKERS
4	PUKYUTAN
5	RESERVE
6 (DTS)	RESERVE
Golden Pearl THX	RESERVE

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	RESERVE
3	LA VIDA ROSA

Masagana CINEMA 1-2-3-4
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	SISID

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	SISID
3	HEART BREAKER
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	FAST & FURIOUS
5	ORIGINAL SIN

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	BANYO QUEEN
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	FAST & FURIOUS
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5	RESERVE
6	RESERVE
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	PUKYUTAN

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7053152 - 55

FAST & FURIOUS

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	SHREK
2	BANYO QUEEN

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	PITCH BLACK
3	FAST & FURIOUS

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	BURLESK QUEEN
A	LA VIDA ROSA

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	LA VIDA ROSA
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	SISID
5	ORIGINAL SIN
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
8 (SDDS)	HEART BREAKERS
9 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	LA VIDA ROSA

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BANYO QUEEN
4 (SDDS)	FAST & FURIOUS
5	SISID
6 (DOLBY)	PUKYUTAN
7 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
8	PUKYUTAN
9	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	PUKYUTAN
5 (SDDS)	SISID
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
8	ORIGINAL SIN

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	SISID
3 (DTS)	RESERVE
4	LA VIDA ROSA
5 (SDDS)	FAST & FURIOUS

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	LA VIDA ROSA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	LA VIDA ROSA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	SEXUAL MALICE
Lords	MAGENTA
Jennet	RESERVE

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	LA VIDA ROSA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	LA VIDA ROSA
2	SISID
3	ORIGINAL SIN
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	PRINCESS DIARIES

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
3	PUKYUTAN
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	SISID

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	LA VIDA ROSA
2	SISID
3	RESERVE

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	SISID

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SISID
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	PRINCESS DIARIES
2 (DTS)	SISID
3 (DOLBY)	FAST & FURIOUS
4	LA VIDA ROSA

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	SISID
2 (DOLBY)	FAST & FURIOUS
3 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
4	LA VIDA ROSA

Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	ENEMY OF THE GATES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	SISID
2	KAMASUTRA
3	PUKYUTAN
4 (DTS)	LA VIDA ROSA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3 (DTS)	FAST & FURIOUS
4	CROCODILE
5	SISID

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	CROCODILE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	CROCODILE
3	FAST & FURIOUS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	
2	BANYO QUEEN
3	PUKYUTAN

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	LA VIDA ROSA
2	CROCODILE
3	NURSE BETTY

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	LA VIDA ROSA
2 (DTS)	SISID

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	LA VIDA ROSA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SCREAM 2
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ORIGINAL SIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	LA VIDA ROSA
4	BANYO QUEEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	PRINCESS DIARIES
2	LA VIDA ROSA
3	CROCODILE
4 (DTS EX)	ORIGINAL SIN

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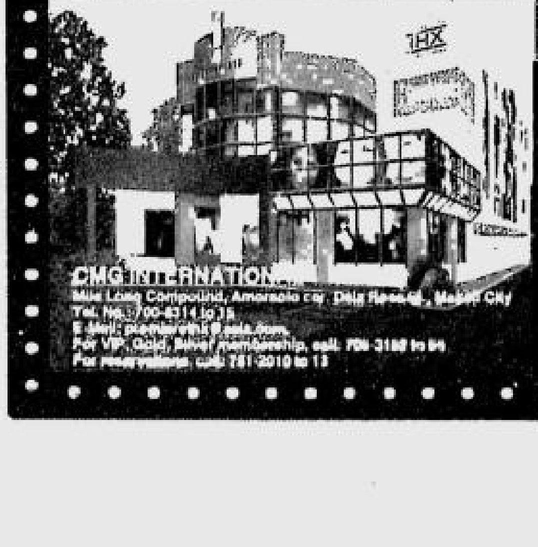

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3	HEART BREAKERS
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	SISID
7	ENEMY AT THE GATES
8	ORIGINAL SIN
9	A KNIGHT'S TALE
10	PRINCESS DIARIES

ERMITA
536-7808 TO 12

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	HEART BREAKERS
3	SISID
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	ORIGINAL SIN
7	PRINCESS DIARIES

NOVALICHES
935-3229 TO 31

1	RESERVE
2	FAST & FURIOUS
3	RESERVE
4	FAST & FURIOUS
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	LA VIDA ROSA
7	ORIGINAL SIN
8	PRINCESS DIARIES

IMUS
(046) 471-8168

1	FAST & FURIOUS
2	ORIGINAL SIN
3	HEART BREAKERS
4	PRINCESS DIARIES
5	LA VIDA ROSA
6	SISID

BACOLOD
(034) 441-0463

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	A KNIGHT'S TALE
3	BANYO QUEEN
4	A.I.
5	ENEMY AT THE GATES
6	SCARY MOVIE 2

SOON TO OPEN

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	LA VIDA ROSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	LA VIDA ROSA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	FAST & FURIOUS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	ORIGINAL SIN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HEART BREAKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BANYO QUEEN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	CROCODILE 2
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ORIGINAL SIN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	PARU PARONG LIGAW / MAGENTA
ODEON	ORIGINAL SIN
ODEON-2	PUKYUTAN
ROBEN	LA VIDA ROSA
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	SWORDFISH / FINAL FANTASY
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	PUKYUTAN
REMAR	LA VIDA ROSA
REMAR-2	PUKYUTAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	LA VIDA ROSA
B	SISID (open Oct. 1, 2001 sneak preview)
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-2	FAST & FURIOUS
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	MANO MANO 2
CINEMA-3	PUKYUTAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-6	A.I.
CINEMA-7	BURLESK QUEEN
CINEMA-8	BUKAS BABAHA NG DUGO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	ENEMY AT THE GATES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	A KNIGHT'S TALE
CINEMA-12	SCARY MOVIE 2
CINEMA-14	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-15	BANYO QUEEN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ORIGINAL SIN
CINEMA-2	PRINCESS DIARIES
CINEMA-3	HEART BREAKERS
CINEMA-4	THE FAST & THE FURIOUS
CINEMA-5	LA VIDA ROSA
CINEMA-6	PRINCESS DIARIES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	APOY SA MAGDAMAG
CINEMA-2	ALFREDO LIM
CINEMA-4	RATRATAN

WUNDERLICH

All-hit album launched

TEN of today's hottest names in contemporary pop music were recently gathered to form one of the best all-hit albums in the market.

"My Only Radio . . . for Life" or simply "MOR" captures the new and exciting programming mix of ABS-CBN's radio network nationwide.

The album contains music that set "Moods of Romance" with songs from Westlife ("My Love"), Christian Wunderlich ("Why Goodbye") and Christina Aguilera ("I Turn to You").

There's also music for party atmosphere on Mix of Rhythm with O-Town ("Liquid Dreams") and Joy Enriquez ("Tell Me How You Feel").

Driving to and from work becomes more enjoyable with "Morning of the Rush" and "Music of the Road" with Five ("Keep on Movin'") and Dido ("Thank You").

As the radio network caters to all market segments, the album also dishes out "Mix of Rock" with music from Vertical Horizon ("Best I Ever Had").

Homegrown music is certainly part of the mix as "Musikang Orig sa Radyo" is highlighted in the CD with songs from Eraserheads ("Maskara") and Anna Fegi ("You and I").

There is an ongoing "MOR" promo on dwRR in Manila and at all "MOR" stations nationwide, where free copies of the album are given away to lucky listeners.

The album is exclusively distributed by BMG Records (Pilipinas) Inc.

'Divas on the Block'

REY Kilay, Anton Ragasa and Vice. What do they have in common?

In the field of singing, the many shows that they have done after their respective stints on the sing-along joints, is proof that they are belters in their own right.

In the field of comedy, when they work as sing-along hosts, they have proven that they can make their audience stay till the wee hours.

As divas, each has performed to bigger crowds in bigger venues with the solo shows they have done.

Rey Kilay had the Soul Diva Jaya for his special guest. Anton Ragasa had Asia's songbird Regine Velasquez. And Vice had Asia's Nightingale Lani Misalucha in his solo concert.

The three certified sing-along divas will have a special concert tonight at Virgin Café in Tomas Morato Avenue, Quezon City.

Janet Quiwa of MJQ Productions has watched the three perform at the Library on M. Adriatico street in Malate, as well as in their solo shows. With the major sponsors Trans Asia Pacific, Northern Steam Laundry Inc., Replay, Lee, Rough Rider and Blue Factory Corporation, a special show was conceptualized. It will be directed by Andrew S.

ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

A new show, and why I do what I do

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

AT A RECENT symposium that **Boy Abunda** and I attended, a woman told me that she occasionally read my column and she saw that I could write and that I had a "brain." She said she was wondering why I chose hosting show biz talk shows instead of going into something more serious like journalism, I guess to put whatever I've got to better use.

I realize that questions like these are well-meaning, but they also smack of condescension. Entertainment as a profession is still something most people who've had the luxury of a good education regard dismissively.

Why do I do what I do? Because from the time I was 3 years old I knew that I wanted to be on television. This was the medium I was born to be in, it's the work I'm passionate about. By being myself, I connect with not only my guests but also the thousands, hopefully millions, who tune in. This may not account for much for some, but what I do does give some people some measure of fun and enjoyment.

Ask yourself: Just how easy is it to conduct an on-air conversation? How do you strike the right balance of probing, cheery camaraderie, and interesting anecdotes? It's a special talent to keep things flowing, and to make it appear like it's effortless.

Apart from the surrender of your right to privacy, being on TV allows you to have a special place in the lives of some of your viewers. I was so thrilled during one of my last tapings for "Kris and Tell" when this twentysomething girl came to my set with carefully chosen shirts, necklaces, bracelets and other accessories all decorated with hearts. It was just one of the sweetest things ever done for me, and I was so touched by all the effort she took to make me happy with her gifts just because as she said I was her "favorite."

'Game Ka Na Ba?'

Next week, on Oct. 8, I'm starting a new hosting job for a new ABS-CBN venture. It's a 100-percent Filipino conceptualized game show called "Game Ka Na Ba?" that everybody who has a cell phone can participate in and hopefully win a lot of money from via the game's texting component.

For reasons of confidentiality, I'm not allowed to go into specifics about how the studio part of the game will be played. I've done some on-set rehearsing, and it's safe for me to say that this game is visually stimulating, suspenseful and emotionally involving.

I wear my heart on my sleeve, and my facial expressions and vocal intonations have been helpful in making me an affective and effective talk show host. But in this game's case, I've been praying that I won't get more excited than my contestants.

Knowing me, I'll be jumping up and down and screaming my lungs out whenever a contestant makes it to the jackpot round, and I have a feeling I'll be more likely to cry when the contestant doesn't make it.

Wouldn't that be something, having the losing contestant feel that he or she has to comfort the teary-eyed game show host?

We like to watch

TRY to get a copy of this month's Talk magazine. Lara Flynn Boyle is on the cover with the tag-line "You Know You Like to Watch" and it's their all-about-TV issue.

Although this is all about American TV, we can draw some parallels with how much TV currently draws us in and draws us out in subsequent personal reviews and discussions.

During Sunday lunch, I'm sure our family is representative of most other Pinoy families who discuss the latest happenings in the soaps "Pangako sa Yo" (my sister Viel's favorite), "Hanggang sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan," and "Sa Puso Ko'y Iingatan Ka" (my sister Pinky's favorite). We compare which questions on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" we easily answered and which had us stumped. We discuss the ability of Boy's latest guests to remain interesting over the course of the hour on "Private Conversations."

In other words, we do like to watch and we like to talk about what we've watched.

Newest favorite

I LOVED the film "The Fast and the Furious." The action was edge-of-your-seat and scream-inducing even when I had laryngitis.

Paul Walker, who was my crush from the time he co-starred with Joshua Jackson in "Skulls," is even more beautiful (that's the correct word, his face is all-American perfect) now, but my newest, absolute favorite after watching this action flick is Vin Diesel (sorry Hugh Jackman, you've been dethroned).

Vin Diesel has the deepest, most resonant voice I've ever heard an actor possess, and his body is absolutely to die for. His arms are so powerfully sculpted, and his skin is so smooth, with absolutely no tattoos in sight. His screen presence really commands your undivided attention. Just like Bruce Willis, he makes being bald so sexy and a symbol of strength.

I'm devoted to watching movies in Greenbelt Theaters because I find it so convenient to have a quick meal downstairs at their many delicious food outlets and I find their seats and airconditioning just right. But when we were watching last Wednesday, halfway through the film the live music coming from above was beginning to be an unwelcome distraction. It was quite loud and difficult to ignore. A bit more soundproofing would make the viewing pleasure in Greenbelt complete.

'Sweethearts' again

ON Wednesday "America's Sweethearts" will finally be shown in Metro Manila theaters. I enjoyed the film a lot when I saw it in New York in June before I interviewed the film's stars. I recommend it for all those who are looking for a wholesome, funny date movie.

Let me just lower your expectations a bit by saying that the movie doesn't quite equal the *kilig* moments of "Notting Hill" because "Sweethears" doesn't have an equally romantic soundtrack. I'm sure that, to this day, when you recall that film, the songs "When You Say Nothing at All" and "She" resonate in your memory.

As for me, well I'm watching "America's Sweethearts" for the second time because I'm taking my mom on a movie date.

Filipino films and some Asian movies compared

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AFTER viewing 10 films practically nonstop at the ongoing Focus on Asia filmfest in Fukuoka City, Japan; we have arrived at some tentative points of convergence and divergence between our movies and those produced elsewhere in the region.

First, the similarities: Like the other Asian movies, Filipino films at their best are strong on family values and a measure of spirituality, which occasionally sinks to the level of superstition.

Films from countries like Japan, Malaysia and Thailand are as kinetic and brisk as the Philippines' best, while the movies of countries like Cambodia, Vietnam and Iran are more meditative and ruminative in their projection.

Thus, Filipino movies stand out in the region for their relatively more "western" pacing and imagery. Since we've been exposed to a diet of mostly Hollywood films for decades we make our movies different from the other films produced in the region.

On the negative aspect, our devotion or adherence to Hollywood's storytelling conventions for film generally robs our movies of their unique identity, and some of them come off as awkward clones of American movies.

This is very different from the impression made by movies from China, Vietnam and Taiwan. Viewing those films, we get the feeling that their makers are bent, not on imitating Hollywood models, but on telling *their* stories, *their* way.

Thus, Iranian movies impress with their deep commitment to exposing some of the ills of their society, and showing the human face of the Iranian people.

On the other hand, Vietnamese movies are characterized by a combination of patriotism and innocence—an unusual combination that reminds us of the early, post-revolution movies of the People's Republic of China.

In a sense, these films are jejeune and prone to attention-calling symbolism, but we remind ourselves that Chinese movies also began this way, only to mature in a remarkably short time, to be hailed by the rest of the filmmaking world.

Seen in contrast to the Fukuoka festival's selection of outstanding movies from many Asian countries, many Filipino films generally come off as mere diversions for diversion's sake, with few urgent stories to tell.

Other filmmaking countries in Asia also have to come up with commercially viable movies as we do, but they go beyond that commercialism and try to tell significant stories, with vivid and empathetic protagonists and antagonists.

As a result, even if some of them are more awkward than our productions, these Asian movies deserve attention because of their sense of integrity and self-worth, qualities that are less ephemeral and manipulative than mere diversion.

This observation prompts us to hope that our gifted filmmakers will at least remind themselves that they should not just be out to make their producers happy, but should also tell relevant movie stories in a committed manner, and to think about their audience above all else.

That audience likes to enjoy itself at the movies, yes, but it doesn't like being taken for granted and being told stale, kneejerk tales. It is also looking for inspiration and affirmation in the movies it sees.

One example of an Asian movie that goes beyond formula is "Senario Again," a Malaysian comedy that takes the old format of the comedy of errors, and makes it inventively, delightfully fresh.

Not only is this movie successful as a clever film comedy, but it has become one of Malaysia's biggest hits. We hope that our Filipino filmmakers will draw inspiration from this new proof that creativity and popularity are not incompatible, and will come up with inventive comedies themselves, instead of the gimmick-oriented and messy collection of gags we get these days.

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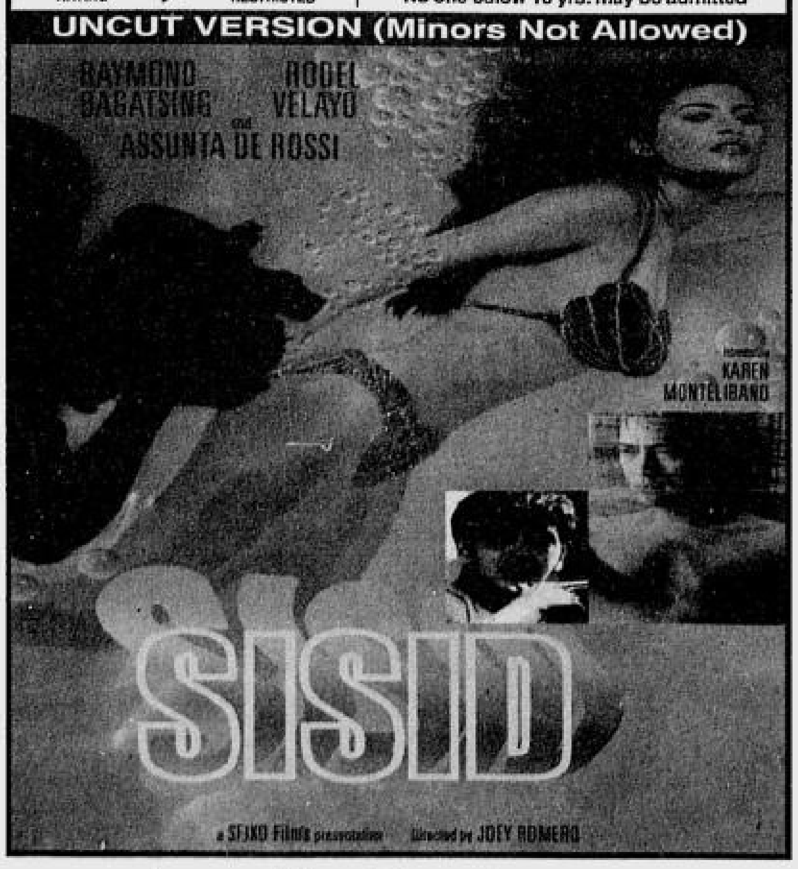

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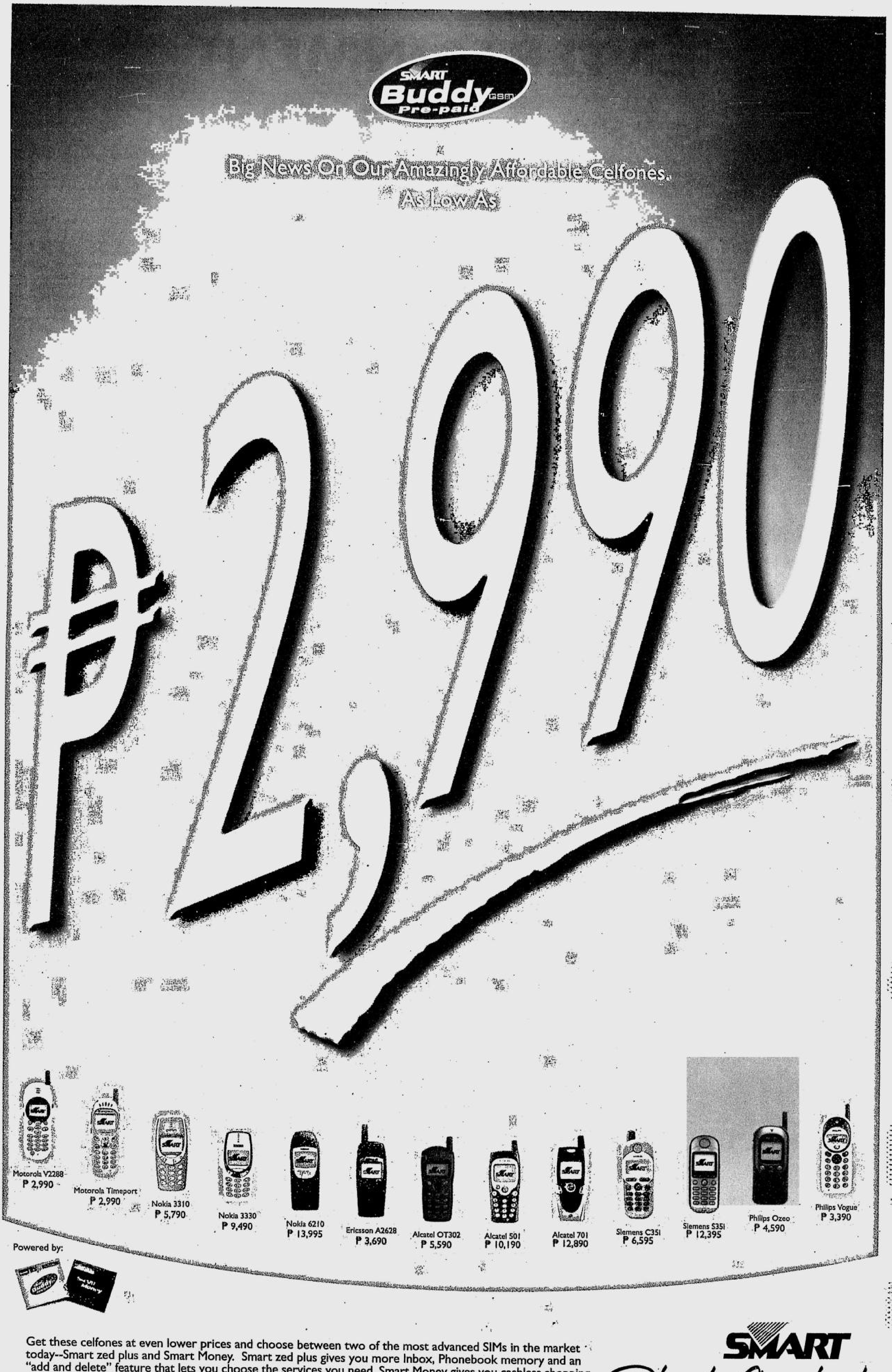

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AFFORDABILITY ISSUE

AUVs retain tax exemption

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENTS of Trade and Industry and Finance have finally agreed to maintain the Asian utility vehicles' (AUV's) tax exemption and to look for other means to plug the loopholes in vehicle taxation.

This was revealed by Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II who said he would propose the use of sticker price rather than engine size or seating capacity as the basis for the assessment of excise taxes.

The DTI and DOF have apparently bowed to pressure from AUV assemblers—Toyota Motor Co. Philippines Inc., Mitsubishi Motor Corp. of the Philippines, and Isuzu Philippines Corp. —who warned that the excise tax would put their models beyond the reach of their target middle-class owners and entrepreneurs.

Roxas said the DTI and DOF would retain the tax-exempt status of AUVs, both the bare and fully-loaded units, in line with the government's policy of promoting the development of vehicles that extensively use locally made parts. AUVs have the highest local content among all local models of up to 60 percent.

He said the DOF had wanted to limit the tax exemption on basic AUV models only because the more expensive, spruced-up versions cater to high-end buyers that could afford to pay higher taxes. But Roxas said putting a distinction between bare and flashy AUVs this year would only entail added costs for tax administration and marginal increment in government revenues.

Roxas said that the DTI and DOF have concurred that it would be more fruitful to focus on taxing other models, specifically sport utility vehicles, that were able to dodge excise taxes by putting jump seats at the back compartment.

Vehicles with a passenger capacity of 10 or more like AUVs are currently exempted from excise taxes, a rule which have been abused by some assemblers in order to bring in more expensive AUVs at low prices.

The DTI and the DOF had said that tax reforms to check these abuses would not impact on AUVs. The government had initially pushed for a flat tax rate on vehicles in lieu of the excise tax based on engine size. But Roxas said he would rather have taxes based on a vehicle's sticker price in order to ensure that all assemblers pay appropriate taxes.

OFWs' dollar remittances seen to hit $6B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is counting on the dollar remittances from overseas Filipino workers to boost the economy and push the peso up to the P50-to-$1 level by year's end.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said this year's dollar remittances from Filipinos working overseas would likely hit $6 billion, or the same as last year's level.

Tetangco told reporters that in the first half of the year, the dollar inflow accounted for by the OFWs reached $2.7 billion.

Remittances from OFWs accounted for roughly 9 percent of the country's gross national product as of the second quarter.

Tetangco said a healthy dollar remittance level would be a big factor that would help prop up the peso and keep the local economy resilient to the adverse effects of the global slowdown. "It should help offset the decline registered by the export sector."

The BSP official said a healthy dollar inflow would also help complement the performance of the domestic economy particularly agriculture, services, and consumer and public spending.

Tetangco said the government's aim to push the peso up to the P50-to-$1 level remained achievable despite the prevailing market volatility.

The peso closed at P51.32 to $1 last Friday, slightly better from the previous day's P51.365.

Traders expect the peso to remain in the range of P51 to P51.40 as against the dollar in the coming weeks in the absence of any positive local development that would prop it up.

A trader from a local bank pointed out that the exchange rate would suffer if exports would contract by 15 percent as projected by government economic managers.

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GLOBAL ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN

9-month textile, garment exports decline 4.9%

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

EXPORTS of textile and garments continued to fall through September this year as buyers from the US, Europe and Japan snipped their orders in the face of waning consumer confidence.

The Garments and Textile Export Board reported that exports slipped by 4.9 percent to $2.202 billion from January to Sept. 14 this year from $2.3 billion in the same period last year.

Exports to the US, which accounts for 76.55 percent of total shipments, slipped 1.95 percent to $1.685 billion from January to Sept. 14 this year from $1.719 billion during the same period last year.

The government expects demand from the US to slow down further, following the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington that pummeled weak consumer confidence in the world's biggest market for apparel and fabrics.

The slump in the American economy is sending ripples to other major markets, notably Europe and Japan.

Sales in Europe fell sharply by 17.4 percent to $222.4 million from January to Sept. 14 this year from $269.206 million during the same period last year. Hardest hit were sales to Great Britain (down 8 percent to $79.19 million), Germany (down 30 percent to $50.803 million), Benelux nations (down 7 percent to $41.429 million) and France (down 20 percent to $23.194 million).

Only Canada showed positive numbers among quota markets. Canada sales rose 7 percent to $53.878 million in the first three quarters this year from $50.365 million during the same period last year.

Non-quota countries slumped 8.37 percent to $240.083 million in the first 9 months this year from $262.007 million during the same period last year. Exports to Japan, the country's biggest non-quota market, plunged 9.39 percent to $81.992 million through September this year.

The poor performance of the garments and electronics sectors have prompted government economic planners to project a 15-percent drop in total exports this year.

Exporters urged to adopt innovative selling strategies

DISCARD old ways of selling. Create an army of export warriors. Check on your competitors and find a niche for yourselves. Sell to the domestic market.

These were a few of the survival tips dished out by pioneer export promoter and former tourism chief Mina Gabor to embattled exporters seeking ways of staying afloat amid a global economic slowdown exacerbated by terrorist attacks on the United States last Sept. 11.

The Philippine Exporters Confederation (Philexport) invited Gabor as keynote speaker in its national membership meeting held to help exporters draw their crisis management strategies the other day.

Gabor, who founded the Center for International Trade Exposition and Mission (Citem) that jumpstarted the country's non-traditional exports, told exporters they should go beyond trade fairs in booking orders. Instead, they must improve their marketing efforts and personally meet their potential buyers.

She pointed out that foreign buyers are getting more discriminating. The only way to know what they want to buy is to get it straight from them. In the United States, sales in supermarkets may be slowing but specialty shops are thriving.

Instead of getting intimidated by competitors that sell cheap like China, Filipino exporters should make their customers know that we are a high-end design country that sells reasonably priced goods.

The image of the Philippines as a source of cheap goods must be discarded right away.

With or without a global economic crisis, Gabor sees several areas where the Philippines can excel compared with other Asian countries. One is the export of services. Another is religious images. The bridal industry market in the United States is worth $15 billion a year, waiting to be tapped.

The Philippines should not be left behind in the sale of holiday decors. She sees no reason why the country should be beaten by Thailand in the value and volume of holiday decors exported to the west.

"We should be at least No. 3 worldwide," she said. The country should not rank a low No. 9 in the export of handmade paper, either.

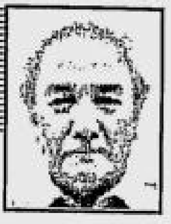
And for exporters not to be too vulnerable to the vagaries of international events and slowdowns, they should begin selling in the local market. For a breakthrough, they should hold a "wholesale" trade fair. Wholesale prices imply cheap prices. Big retailers will be attracted.

The fair may double as a networking fair where related enterprises can forge alliances, joint ventures and other forms of tie-up.

She urges export industries to find niches where they are specialists, set goals for themselves and do everything to reach those goals. *Abe P. Belena, Philexport News and Features*

How WTC disaster affects your insurance

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



Honesto C. General

AS BRAVE rescuers continue to dig out and truck away over a million tons of rubble of the World Trade Center, the international insurance community is nervously estimating the huge claims that will surely have to be paid.

First, was the terrorist act covered? All insurance policies, except life, exclude acts of war or warlike activities, whether war is declared or not. The WTC disaster is clearly excluded. But some insurers have publicly announced they will not invoke the exclusion. But if the final total is so huge, some insurers, facing bankruptcy, may be forced to deny claims.

By paying extra premium, war and terrorism can be covered. I guess many of the WTC buildings carried terrorism coverage. But if your office were on the 105th floor, you would not think of getting insurance against terrorism. You then can have some trouble collecting your claim unless your insurer does not invoke the terrorism exclusion.

Computing the replacement cost of the buildings will be fairly easy. Computing claims under business interruption policies (covering loss of gross earnings) may be more difficult especially if records were lost. Clearing the debris is an additional coverage that policies on big buildings carry. But the expenses for clearing the debris will probably exceed the limit in the policy.

Third-party liability claims will be messy. Is the Boston Airport Authority liable to the airlines and passengers for lax security? Are the airlines liable to the passengers? The cases can land in court where decisions will not be out in years.

Total life insurance claims will be huge. Those who died certainly carried some life insurance. Americans are heavy buyers of life insurance. If any of the fatalities did not have a personal policy, he probably was covered under a group policy provided by his employer.

Total losses are estimated to reach US$40 billion. This is the biggest single catastrophe in history. How much will be recovered from insurance is anybody's guess at this time. The life insurance companies should have no trouble paying claims, but they will have to accept shortcuts in proving the death of an insured. Non-life companies and underwriters may be a different story. Everybody is, of course, putting up a brave front. Some will probably go bankrupt and close down.

Insurance being an international and borderless business, what happened to the World Trade Center will be rippling all the way to the Philippines. The airlines are the first to feel the pinch. Their terrorism cover has been cut from US$2 billion to US$50 million. The government will have to step in; otherwise, our airlines will stay grounded. They will not be allowed to land abroad on such a measly sum insured.

The insurance policies on your house or car, although carrying the war exclusion clause, will not be affected. You should be able to renew the policies on the same terms. And you don't have to buy the war risk clause.

The big businesses will have problems. Anyone who wants to buy the war clause will not be able to get it. Those who already have terrorism insurance, and the sum insured is very large, may not be able to renew the entire sum insured. Whatever can be renewed, will certainly be at a much higher premium.

The local non-life insurance companies will have to watch their reinsurance contracts. Some reinsurers, facing huge losses, may pull out and looking for replacements may not be easy. This is what happened some years back when Lloyds of London was facing collapse. But this time, the problem is much larger.

Long before this worldwide political and military coalition against terrorism was ever thought of, the international insurance industry had put up its network to cover terrorism. Now, the insurance industry faces its biggest test.

Drop in copra output seen

COPRA production may slip next year from this year's projected output of between 2.2 million and 2.4 million tons because of the possible return of the El Niño weather phenomenon, a senior official said on Friday.

Copra is the dried coconut meat from which coconut oil is extracted.

Danilo Coronacion, administrator of state agency Philippine Coconut Authority, said copra yields could also decline next year from possible stress on coconut trees after two years of high productivity.

Coconut trees usually show stress by having fewer or smaller nuts in the third year of a three-year high productivity cycle, he said.

"We are anticipating a production of 2.2 million to 2.4 million tons this year as El Niño is forecast to occur in the fourth quarter this year until the first quarter of next year," Coronacion told reporters.

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EXPORTERS' PLIGHT

Decisive gov't actions sought

THE EMBATTLED export sector is bound to lose its fight for survival unless the government summons the political will to immediately act in creating an environment more conducive to recovery.

The warning was issued by Employers Confederation of the Philippines (Ecop) president Donald Dee as Philippine businesses braces itself for possible disruptions in global trade as the United States prepares for war against terrorists.

"We have been promised lower electricity rates with the passage into law of the Omnibus Power Sector Reform law. Power rates here are still the highest in Asia," Dee said.

The law categorically ordered cuts in power rates but this has yet to materialize as its implementing rules and regulations were still being finalized.

Dee also pointed out that the Philippines has the highest cost of living in the region. Unless and until the cost of living in the country is pared down, he said industrial workers would continue to spend the bulk of their earnings on food and transportation with nothing left for other essentials such as education and housing.

He said that the government should set its priorities right. If it wanted to efficiently use scarce government funds, it has to plow this to agriculture and make farming more productive and more profitable. A productive farm sector ensures lower cost of food.

The sound allocation of scarce funds should also be done in building crucial infrastructure projects such as ports and roads.

Dee likewise pointed out that the government's decision to tear down import tariffs to open up the country to imports may have done more harm than good to domestic industries.

He said that after it dismantled its tariff shields, the Philippines has become the dumping ground of excess goods from neighboring countries that have not dismantled their tariff barriers. He cited as an example the heavy importation of steel from China to the detriment of local steel manufacturers.

Other Asian countries have been slower in dismantling tariff barriers to allow their industries to retool before they take on foreign competitors, Dee said.

Dee said that if the government would do its part, the business sector would be in a better position to survive the present crisis and would eventually be able to create more new jobs. *Abe P. Belena, Philexport News & Features*

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President, Trends-MBL

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Professor, De La Salle Graduate School of Business

DAY 2 (Oct. 5, 2001)

Session 4
PREDICTING CONSUMER PURCHASE BEHAVIOR
By: Mr. Ambrosio Reyes
Director for Operations, A C Nielsen Philippines

Session 5
QUANTIFYING CONSUMER ATTITUDE TOWARDS CREATIVITY OF AN ADVERTISEMENT
By: Ms. Darrah Estrada
Managing Director, Taylor Nelson Sofres Philippines

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DBP extends bridge funding to BCDA

THE DEVELOPMENT Bank of the Philippines signed recently a loan and security agreement for a P1-billion bridge loan in favor of the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

The loan will be used to finance major projects of BCDA, particularly the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Road Project.

DBP president and CEO Remedios L. Macalincag said that proceeds from the loan would augment BCDA's equity counterpart in the road project. The repayment of the bridge loan would be taken out from the proceeds of a P2-billion bond issuance to be held early next year by BCDA with DBP as the lead underwriter.

Macalincag said that DBP's entry into this undertaking demonstrated its commitment to support strategic and viable projects to help accelerate infrastructure development in the countryside, and in the case of the BCDA project, help in the creation of a new growth corridor in Central Luzon.

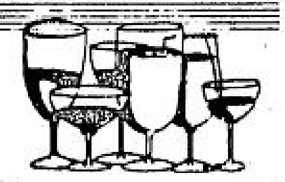
The construction of the 89.3-km expressway will connect the Subic seaport to Clark Airport and the Tarlac Industrial Estates. It is expected to be completed in 2006.

Completion cost of the project is estimated at P19.97 billion. Of the total amount, 84.5 percent will be funded under the Japan Bank for International Cooperation's Special Yen Loan Package, while the remaining 15.4 percent will be raised by BCDA as its counterpart.

The agreement was signed by key DBP officials led by Macalincag and BCDA chair Rogelio L. Singson.

Ernest money

COCKTALES



By Victor C. Agustin

THE MYSTERIOUS middleman in Sen. Panfilo Lacson's "exposé" about a secret dollar account in Hong Kong is the balding, gay owner of Gourmet Café, Ernest Escaler of the landed Escaler family.

Escaler, who is said to be in New York now, has never denied that he owns the Coutts Bank account in Hong Kong, which received a $2-million wire transfer from the Trade and Commerce Bank in Grand Caymans. ***(See Cocktales, Sept. 10.)*** .

The Grand Caymans bank account, in turn, is said to be controlled by the controversial Rep. Mark Jimenez.

Jimenez, who is fighting efforts to extradite him to the United States, has also never denied that he leaked the incriminating bank documents because, according to the grapevine, he felt he had been double-crossed.

Double-crossed by whom? *Abangan ninyo na lang.*

A little backgrounder on Escaler.

We met him once, years ago, when the Escaler family was trying to obtain what, in effect, was a golden parachute from the family of ex-Finance Secretary Ramon del Rosario Jr., their long-time partners in Bacnotan Consolidated.

This was when the Del Rosarios were selling their extensive cement holdings to the Swiss group, Holderbank, a transaction that the Escalers feared would dilute them and lock them into a useless minority position.

Escaler, in short, used Cocktales to undertake negative publicity against the Del Rosarios to finally wangle better buy-out terms for his family's shareholdings.

A former Ballet Philippines director, Escaler's last social event project was when he helped bring in Filipino-American artists led by Lou Diamond-Phillips for a fund-raising project for then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in a dinner at the Mandarin largely underwritten by then Equitable-PCI Bank chair George Go.

(This fund-raising project helped fuel rumors that Escaler was a GMA point man-of-sorts.)

Poor George! He was joking, quite loudly then, that it was one of the most expensive dinners he had so far.

Barroom brawl

UNLESS cooler heads prevail, the row between the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Metro Pacific group over the proposed stock exchange site could degenerate into a bruising corporate brawl reminiscent of the Yuchengco-Coyiuto fight in the early '90s.

We understand that both Metro Pacific chair Manuel Pangilinan and Metro Pacific president Ricardo Pascua cut their trips abroad—Pangilinan was in Europe and Pascua in Hong Kong—and returned to Manila over the weekend for a scheduled press conference this morning.

The PSE board, unfortunately, lost membership support in the way they unceremoniously dumped their president, the 71-year-old, lawyer-stockbroker Ramon Garcia, for his tough stance against Pangilinan and Metro Pacific.

(Those who gave Garcia a vote of no-confidence were PSE chair Felipe Yap, Harry Liu, David Go, Vivian Yuchengco, Cayetano Paderanga, Mario Camacho, Gabby Lopez, Joaquin Bernas and PL Lim. Washington Sycip, who started the motion, was away on a foreign trip.)

Garcia's downfall was the prepared press release that he supposedly delivered against Pangilinan, a stinging rebuke that, in turn, prompted Pangilinan to resign his PSE directorship.

According to press accounts, Garcia never actually referred to the press release during the press conference. The prepared press release, if the accounts are correct, was distributed by PR consultant Tony Baranda after Garcia finished his question-and-answer with the reporters.

On hindsight, the PSE board could have avoided making a martyr out of Garcia had they fired the PR consultant instead (that's what PR consultants and lawyers are for—as shock absorbers) and downplayed the whole brouhaha as one of an inadvertent news release that should have not been released at all.

Of course, everything is always 20/20 clear on hindsight.

Hungry judge

THIS Baguio judge is literally a hungry judge.

According to an administrative complaint now with the Supreme Court, your honor racked up a P22,000 bill in a restaurant that he subsequently passed on to the restaurant manager who, coincidentally, had a pending civil case in the judge's sala.

The Supreme Court got wind of the incident because the accountant who prepared the bill squealed after being fired by the restaurant manager.

Heard through the grapevine

AFTER nearly two weeks of detention, the American husband of Banco Filipino heiress Nanette Aguirre was finally granted bail on Friday by immigration authorities. The bail was granted without prejudice to the deportation case now pending with the Bureau of Immigration.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Sugar output to fall short of demand

BY CHRISTINE A. GAYLICAN

THE COUNTRY is expecting a sugar-production shortfall of some 600,000 metric tons next year. This means the country will have to start importing the commodity by April to avert a shortage of supply in the local market.

Sugar Regulatory Authority Administrator James C. Ledesma said the projected production next year of 1.89 million metric tons would be higher than this year's 1.7 million MT. However, he said this would not be enough to meet the projected demand of 1.95 million MT.

Not even the expected El Niño dry spell is expected to affect local sugar production next year.

"The last time we had a dry spell, we registered a bumper harvest," he said.

SRA data showed that sugar output reached 1.8 million MT a year in 1997 and 1998 crop years when the Philippines suffered the harshest dry spell to date.

The country consumes 1.9 million MT and exports some 150,000 MT of raw sugar to the United States yearly. As of Feb. 18, the Philippines has exported some 58,209 MT to the US.

Ledesma said that if orders for imported sugar would be placed in April, shipments would arrive by end-June or early July.

SRA has started soliciting letters of intent from traders for the importation. Interested traders are expected to come up with their final tenders and performance bonds on April 17.

In another development, the SRA assured that the local prices of raw, washed and refined sugar would not be affected by the volatility of prices in the world market. It said the price would likely remain at around P990 per 50-kilogram bag. Retail prices will likely range from P22 to P27 per kilo.

Sugar millers had estimated that this year's shortfall might reach 350,000 MT.

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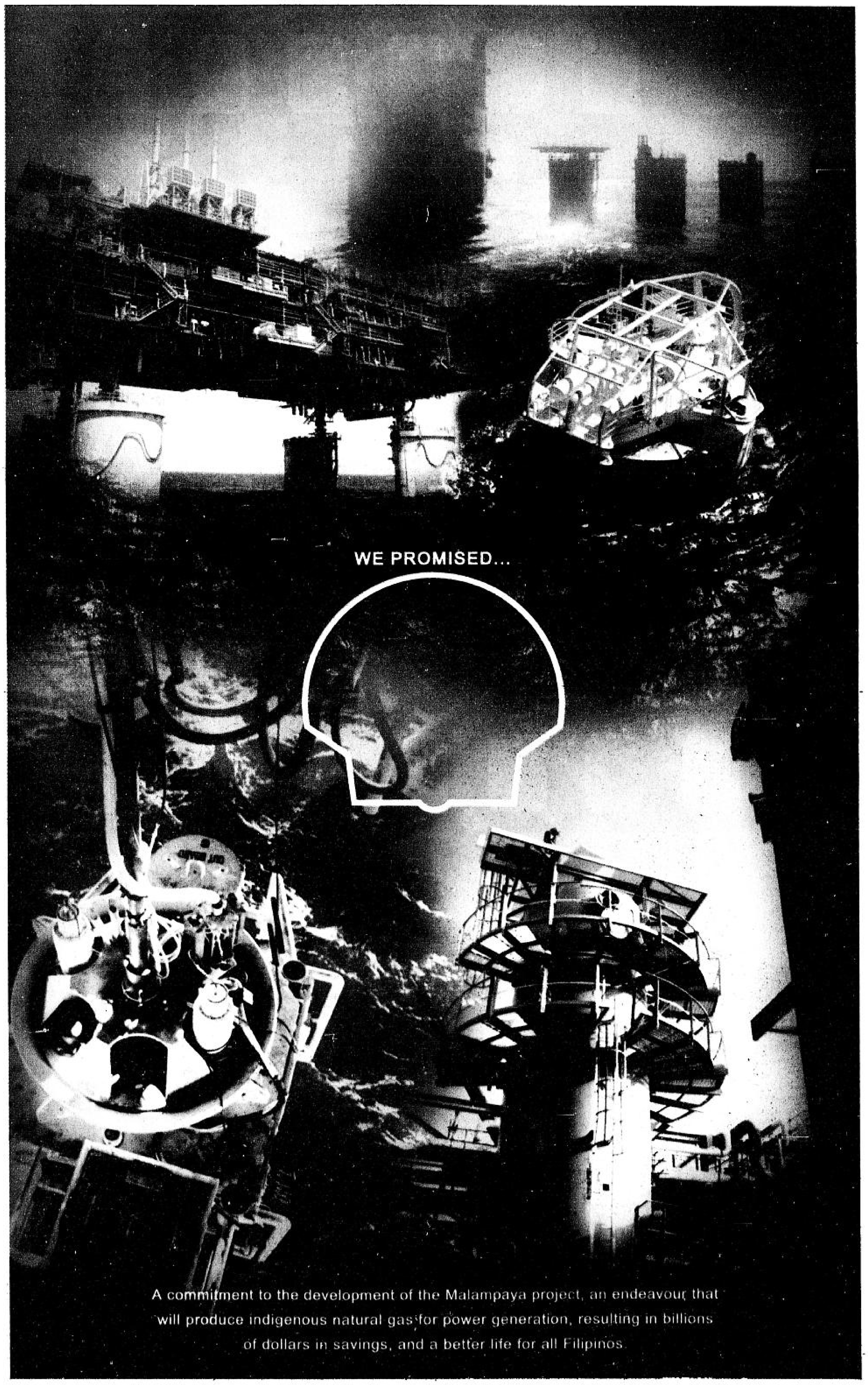

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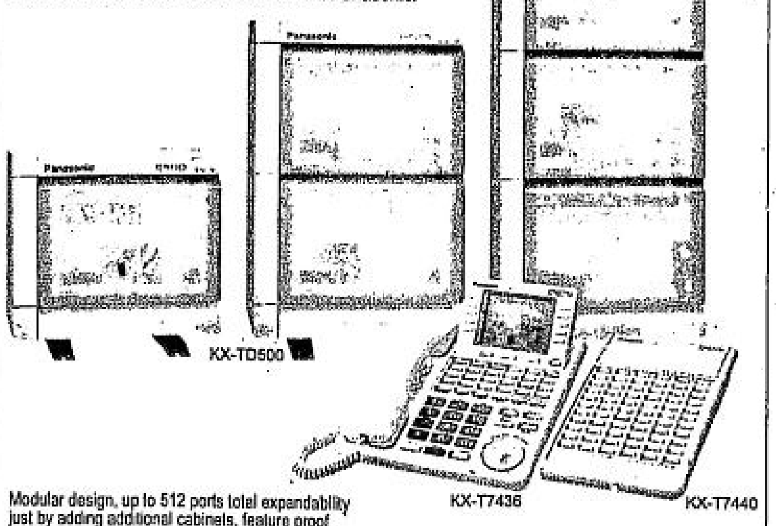
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Digitel refuses to pay Globe

By Abigail L. Ho

GLOBE Telecom and Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc. have failed to settle their dispute Friday, when the latter stood its ground and refused to pay Globe some P250 million in alleged unpaid access charges.

Globe has offered Digitel P44 million in discount if it could pay its obligations by Friday last week. Since Digitel did not pay last Friday, the amount claimed by Globe would revert to P250 million.

The Gokongwei-owned phone company said it refused to pay since no agreement was reached on the formula to be applied in computing access charges, which is the basic issue in the ongoing dispute. Digitel claimed its obligations with Globe could not possibly reach P250 million. Its computation, the company said, showed it owed Globe only P162 million.

Globe has been negotiating with Digitel for a "mutually acceptable compensation formula" but since no agreement was reached, it said its agreements with other carriers should also apply to Digitel.

Digitel said "Globe's position is unacceptable." Globe's agreements with other carriers were negotiated separately and independently. These could not and should not be forced on Digitel, the company said in a statement.

On Sept. 13, 1999, both Globe and Digitel signed a letter of understanding stating that "no settlement for revenue sharing shall be done pending resolution of the commercial impasse. Upon resolution of the commercial issue, settlement shall be done retroactively on the formal date of commercial activation of the said link."

Globe assistant vice president for legal affairs Froilan Castelo said in a phone interview Friday that Globe merely used "industry standards" in computing Digitel's obligations, which, according to its computations, reached P250 million.

"In the telecom industry, we have benchmarks that we use in the absence of an agreement," he said.

But Digitel insisted that Globe could not consider its agreements with other carriers as "industry standards."

Digitel said it was willing to continue negotiating with Globe, but that the issue should not be resolved "solely on Globe's terms. Digitel conducted its business in good faith and Globe has to do no less."

Castelo said he would leave the decision with the National Telecommunications Commission.

"We're still giving them time to talk. If they can't agree by Oct. 3, they will have to submit to our decision," NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said in an interview Friday.

Globe earlier offered Digitel a P44-million discount if it could settle its debt by Friday last week, but since the deadline had elapsed without Digitel paying Globe, Castelo said the amount would revert to the original P250 million.

Davao hotel to be sold

MATI, Davao Oriental—The Menzi Tourism Complex, the only upscale hotel here and owned by the provincial government, will be privatized in October due to severe losses.

The five-hectare villa turned hotel was acquired by the provincial government in 1994 from Hans Menzi, a crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, for P5 million.

Gov. Maria Elena Palma Gil said the hotel had been losing about P900,000 every year since operations started in 1995.

"We decided, along with the provincial board, to have it privatized so the provincial government will earn this time," Gov. Palma Gil said.

The Menzi Tourism Complex is one of the few tourism landmarks in this town and is usually the venue of major conferences and conventions.

Lyrna Palma, provincial tourism officer, said at least 27 contractual employees who are involved in the operations of the hotel, would be affected by the privatization.

Local businessmen who supported the governor in the last elections have been expected to take over the operations of the hotel.

Palma Gil admitted that among them are her "close friends led by Eddie Bong Pang. But, she said, friendship has nothing to do with the decision to privatize the hotel.

"My close ties with these businessmen have nothing to do with the privatization of the Menzi Tourism Complex. As a matter of fact, I turned down their request to lease it (hotel) for three years. I said no, your (lease) contract should only be for one year, but that is renewable provided you will run it effectively."

"Even if they are close to me, that is immaterial. My closeness with these businessmen has nothing to do with the (hotel's) privatization. So don't be malicious," Gov. Palma Gil said.

Although the provincial government maintained the hotel has been losing, records showed an increase in occupancy, from 1,108 guests in 1995 to 14,538 in 2000. *Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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SUSPECTED COLLUSION

DTI asked to investigate cement retailers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CONSUMER groups have petitioned the Department of Trade and Industry to investigate whether cement retailers were colluding to keep cement prices at very high levels despite the wide price gap between imported and local brands.

The Consumers Union of the Philippines and Confederation of Homeowners Associations for Reforms in Governance and Environment (CHARGE) claimed that the virtually uniform prices of local and imported cement have eliminated competition at the expense of consumers.

Both the local and imported cement are currently sold at between P140 and P150 per 40-kilogram bag although local brands are sold at an average ex-plant price of P130 per bag, while imports have a landed cost of only P110 per bag.

CUP and CHARGE said that the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp.'s imports were actually coming in at P52 to P62 per bag which was way below the P108 to P113 landed cost reported by importers.

The consumer groups said that the DTI should verify the real landed cost of imported cement to determine whether retailers selling these products were charging excessive profits.

While CUP and CHARGE have chided Philcemcor for jacking up prices despite excess capacity and weak demand, they have also questioned retailers on the pricing of imported cement.

Meantime, thousands of cement workers have scored the recent decision by the Valenzuela City Regional Trial Court to bar the Department of Trade and Industry from implementing the Safeguard Measures Act on behalf of the local cement industry.

"The decision is a death sentence to local industries," said Samuel Eslava, secretary general of the Philippine Cement Workers' Council.

The injunction stems from a petition filed by the cement and ceramic importers who have also included the entire Philippine Congress as respondents in their case for having passed Republic Act No. 8800 last year.

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Baguio business protests thriving 'wagwag' industry

BAGUIO CITY—After almost a month of brisk *wagwag* (rummage) trading here, the multimillion-peso industry is now under fire from local businessmen who have questioned its legalization by the city government.

The Baguio-Benguet Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BBCCI) urged Mayor Bernardo Vergara to immediately regulate the bargain trade industry, which reportedly earns P1.5 million daily.

Alfonso Lao, owner of Tiong San Bazaar, the leading department store chain in Baguio, said his shops had been suffering "substantial losses" every day due to the *wagwag* competition.

But BBCCI president Delfin Balajadia said the real danger posed by the *wagwag* trading to Baguio business is its growing appeal to legitimate businessmen, who might venture into the *wagwag* trade and destabilize the city's economy.

"There may come a time when even Tiong San will just join the bandwagon," Balajadia said in Filipino during a press briefing on Monday.

In fact, several department stores that used to sell RTW (ready to wear) items and signature jeans, shoes and clothes have converted several sections of their shops into *wagwag* houses.

Carlos Honorio Estepa, governor of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), said businessmen here were caught flatfooted by Vergara's declaration that Baguio is the official center of *wagwag* trade in the country.

"We were never consulted, but when I was asked for my opinion, I told city officials that I was never in favor of the *wagwagan*. But since these (bargain houses) have been licensed, and we really cannot accuse them of any irregularity, we just (kept quiet) until we can discuss their impact," he said.

Armando Galimba, regional director of the Department of Trade and Industry, said *wagwag* trading was endorsed because of its tourism drawing power.

"In the sense, we have an industry that will attract many tourists, and many parallel industries will benefit from their visit like restaurants and hotels," he said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

PGI not in talks with Napocor over steam fields

By Ronnel W. Domingo

PHILIPPINE Geothermal Inc. on Friday clarified that it was not into talks with the government on the consolidation of National Power Corp.'s geothermal plants with its steam fields in Albay and Laguna.

In a letter sent to the INQUIRER, PGI also explained that Power and Renewable Energy Corp. "will be dissolved."

Last week, the INQUIRER reported that Napocor expected to close by November a deal on said consolidation with PowerCorp.

PowerCorp, a joint venture between PGI and businessman Eusebio Tanco's Asian Terminals Inc., was formed with the intention of assuming ownership of the 756-megawatt Tiwi-Makban steam fields through a negotiated sale.

As a wholly owned firm of United States-based Unocal, PGI is prohibited by law from taking full control of the steam fields.

But the plan was foiled as the recently enacted Electric Power Industry Reform Act requires the sale of Napocor's assets to undergo competitive biddings.

On the other hand, PGI said it was committed to play an active role in the restructuring of the power industry.

PGI, which supplies steam to Napocor's geothermal plants, noted that it was currently in negotiations with Napocor on the renewal of its service contract, which expired in 1996.

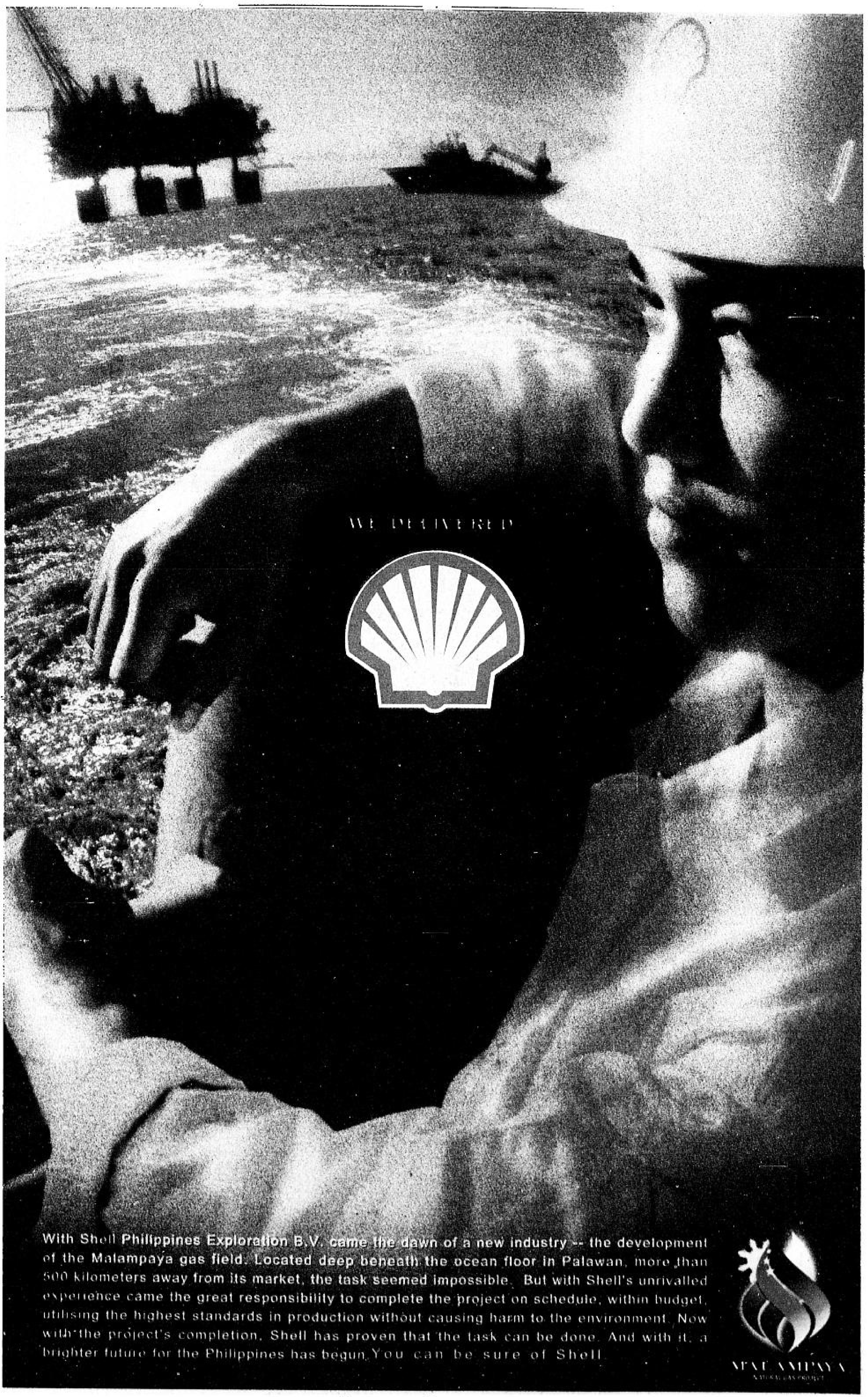
In a related development, Psalm president Edgardo del Fonso said last week Napocor hoped to consolidate its power plants with the steamfields of PNOC Energy Development Corp. in Sorsogon, Negros Oriental and Leyte by mid-October.

Psalm, which was created by the Electric Power Industry Reform Act, would absorb all of Napocor's disposable assets effective Dec. 27.

Del Fonso added that Napocor's geothermal plants would be excluded from the state firm's other generation assets,

PNOC-EDC's geothermal fields in Albay and Sorsogon, Leyte, and Negros serve Napocor's power plants.

The generators include the 112.5-megawatt Tongonan I in Leyte; the 112.5-mw Palinpinon I and the 80-mw Palinpinon II in Southern Negros; and the 110-mw Bacman I and 40-mw Bacman II in the area bordering Albay and Sorsogon.



With Shell Philippines Exploration B.V. came the dawn of a new industry -- the development of the Malampaya gas field. Located deep beneath the ocean floor in Palawan, more than 500 kilometers away from its market, the task seemed impossible. But with Shell's unrivalled experience came the great responsibility to complete the project on schedule, within budget, utilising the highest standards in production without causing harm to the environment. Now with the project's completion, Shell has proven that the task can be done. And with it, a brighter future for the Philippines has begun. You can be sure of Shell.

Phisix seen to test new lows this week

By Doris C. Dumlao

MARKET PLAY

OVERSOLD local stocks were seen to test new lows before they inch up this week as uncertainties over the counter-terrorist attacks of the United States continue to haunt the market.

Despite losing another 3.11 percent last week to close at 1,126.63 points, analysts said that the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index has yet to show signs of bottoming out.

"I think we still need to test the major support at 1,075 before bargain-hunters would come in. There will still be some follow-through selling," Vickers Ballas associate sales director Enrique Sta. Ana explained.

With the global conflict arising from the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington last Sept. 11 now spreading to Central Asia, Sta. Ana said everybody was thinking of getting out of the market for a while.

"The outlook is still bleak although there are many stocks that are undervalued. As a safe bet, it's better to stick to companies with strong cash position like SM Prime Holdings, San Miguel Corp. and Jollibee Foods Corp.," he said.

"A lot of blue chips like PLDT will have problems on maturing obligations next year. They will have to restructure or seek refinancing and it's not the best time to do that," he added.

He also noted that the debt problems of the Lopezes' Benpres Holdings Corp. continued to cast a pall of gloom even on its best performing units such as media giant ABS CBN Broadcasting Corp. and infrastructure firm First Philippine Holdings Corp.

Mark Securities head of research Manuel Cruz said a drop to 1,087 points was possible, with the next support level at 980 points. He predicted that the Phisix could still reach an all-time low since the unification of the Makati and Manila Stock Exchanges last decade.

"Everyone is trying to unload and turn to cash. Right now, cash is the key with all the uncertainties," Cruz said.

Cruz said uncertainties were coming not only from fears of escalating war or global recession but also from expectations of a dismal third-quarter performance by local companies.

Philstocks.net noted that there was no quarter-ending window dressing in the local equities market last week, following the worst beating suffered by the US markets since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"Investors don't like uncertainty, yet uncertainty over the timing and extent of a likely US military retaliation continued to weigh the market. Although US special forces have reportedly moved near the Afghan border, there is still no clear indication on what will happen on the war with the unknown enemy," Philstocks.net said.

"The counter-strike against the terrorists has been slow in coming," it said.

Earlier last week, US President George W. Bush ordered the freezing of assets suspected of being used to arm terrorist groups.

Despite assurances from Bush that the US economy remained strong, Philstocks.net noted that consumers were not convinced. It was almost certain that the already sluggish US economy would be further dragged down by the threat of war.

BPI technical analyst Roberto Cano said the support range of 1,075 to 1,100 points might still hold due to an expected short-lived technical rebound this week.

Philstocks.net also believed that after two weeks, the market should get some relief.

"The market had been jittery and has gotten to a level where bargain hunters may be comfortable to come back. In like manner, the US market may also recuperate as the cuts in interest rates make their way to stocks. But trading will still carry a cautious tone as investors remain reluctant to commit until it becomes clearer how and when the United States will retaliate for the terrorist assaults," it said.

Drop in copra output seen

(From page B2)

of coconut oil and other coconut products, produced 2.2 million tons of copra in 2000.

Coronacion said he was initially looking at a 2-percent increase in copra output next year from this year's projected output, but revised this after meteorologists warned of the threat of a return of El Niño.

El Niño is an abnormal warming of waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean, and its occurrence roughly every three years has affected weather patterns around the Pacific rim. In 1983 and 1997, El Niño spawned drought in Australia, the Philippines and Indonesia, and triggered flooding in Peru and Ecuador.

A local meteorologist said El Niño might recur in the last quarter of this year but it would be a "mild one."

"The condition in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific remains neutral. It means El Niño, or La Niña, has not manifested. But the threat remains," meteorologist Nathaniel Cruz of the Philippine weather bureau told Reuters in a recent interview.

"The possibility of a weak El Niño occurring in the last quarter until next year is still there."

Cruz said that even if El Niño recurred in the fourth quarter, its effect on the agricultural sector would not be felt till next year.

"The effect of El Niño will be felt in next year's production and not this year," he said. *Reuters*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, September 28, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50.50	50.5	49.5	50	451,200
China Banking Corp.	550.0	550	550	550	160
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	24.50	24.5	24	24	43,500
Global Business Bank Inc.	77.50	77.5	77.5	77.5	5,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	197.0	198	192	193	96,220
Philippine National Bank	50.00	50	49.5	50	61,700
Phil. Savings Bank	28.50	29	28.5	29	10,200
Security Bank Corp.	18.00	18	18	18	100
Union Bank of the Phil.	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	11,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	.3500	.35	.35	.35	10,000
First Metro Invest Corp.	243.0	243	243	243	210
Sun Life Financial Serv.	920.0	920	920	920	1,600
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.50	22.75	22.5	22.75	3,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	.3400	.35	.33	.33	550,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	630.0	630	625	625	21,000
Manila Bulletin Pub Corp.	3.30	3.3	3.3	3.3	10,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel Co.	.1900	.19	.19	.19	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	492.5	492.5	480	480	98,790
PhilWeb.Com Inc.	.0230	.023	.021	.022	11,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. "A"	24.25	24.25	24.25	24.25	39,300
Manila Electiric Co. "B"	33.50	34.5	33.5	34	529,800
Petron Corp.	1.36	1.4	1.32	1.36	4,937,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE					
Int'l Container Term'l Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.4	1,839,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	.4000	.42	.4	.42	240,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	.3000	.3	.3	.3	20,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	.0700	.07	.07	.07	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip Inc.	.2400	.24	.24	.24	40,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.40	1.4	1.4	1.4	4,705,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.16	142,000
FOOD & BEVERAGES &TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.70	5.8	5.7	5.8	250,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.75	11.75	11,5	11.75	8,100
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	24.50	25	24.5	25	11,000
RFM Corp.	2.20	2.22	2.16	2.16	1,817,000
San Miguel Corp. "A"	38.50	39	38	39	51,900
San Miguel Corp. "B"	50.50	51	50.5	51	297,800
Universal Robina Corp.	4.20	4.2	4.2	4.2	844,000
Vitarich Corp.	.3800	.38	.38	.38	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.70	5.7	5.5	5.5	7,386,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.40	1.4	1.4	1.4	67,000
Ajo.net Holdings Inc.	.6500	.65	.6	.6	450,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	.0065	.0065	.0065	.0065	65,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	.4400	.44	.44	.44	100,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	.1500	.15	.15	.15	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	.1700	.17	.17	.17	210,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.02	1.08	.98	.98	134,390,000
Southeast Asian Cement	.1050	.105	.0925	.0925	900,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	.7300	.73	.73	.73	10,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	34.00	24	23	23.25	287,200
Forum Pacific Inc.	.2000	.2	.2	.2	30,000
Global Equities Inc.	.1100	.11	.1	.1	3,160,000
Ionics Inc.	7.80	7.8	7.4	7.4	214,000
J.G. Summit Hldgs Inc.	1.50	1.5	1.48	1.48	561,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.50	1.5	1.5	1.5	1,000
Megaworld Corp.	.5900	.62	.59	.62	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	.2500	.25	.24	.24	3,800,000
Music Corp.	.6600	.65	.65	.65q	360,000
Solid Group Inc.	.3600	.36	.36	.36	220,-000
Uniwide Hldgs Inc.	.1200	.12	.12	.12	700,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.40	6.4	6.4	6.4	1,000
Picop Resources Inc.	.0900	.09	.09	.09	200,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	.7400	.74	.73	.73	500,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.75	12	10.25	12	71,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	.4600	.47	.46	.47	930,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	.3700	.37	.37	.37	200,000
Manila Jockey Club	15.00	15	15	15	4,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.75	129,000
Globe Telecom "A" warrants	450.0	450	450	450	140
Globe Telecom Hldg. (PDR)	610.0	610	595	600	4,610
Omico Corp. warrant	.0014	.0014	.0014	.0014	30,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.00	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.00	10	10	10	3,000
Philweb.com Inc. warrants	0055	.006	.0055	.006	13,000,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	280.0	280	280	280	270
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.25	4.35	4.25	4.3	3,200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	.2800	.3	.28	.29	510,000
C & P Homes Inc.	.1500	.155	.15	.15	1,340,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	.2400	.24	.24	.24	4,350,000
Empire East Land Inc.	.2300	.23	.23	.23	3,000,000
Edsa Prop Holdings Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.42	1.42	746,000
City & Land Developers	1.40	1.4	1.4	1.4	50,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	.2000	.22	.2	.22	620,000
SM Development Corp.	.7500	.76	.75	.76	110,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.00	6	5.9	6	1,545,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc.	.23	.23	.23	.23	150,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	.0260	.027	.023	.027	26,600,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	.1650	.165	.165	.165	150,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	.0032	.0032	.0032	.0032	4,000,000
Omico Corp.	.0026	.0026	.0026	.0026	1,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	.0150	.015	.015	.015	13,800.00
Philex Mining Corp. B	.3200	.32	.32	.32	160,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	.1200	.12	.12	.12	30,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	.0034	.0034	.0032	.0032	16,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	.2400	.25	.24	.25	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	691,880	48,990,570.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	291,495,710	321,297,930.00
PRO	15,481,000	26,502,370,00
Mining	45,890,000	992,850.00
OIL	16,020,000	56,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	369,578,590	397,840,620.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	454.21	DOWN 5.67
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,590.96	DOWN 21.18
PRO	458.25	DOWN 3.15
Mining	1,172.39	UP 14.82
OIL	1.41	UNCH 0.01
All Shares Index	656.31	UP 6.71
Composite	1,126.63	DOWN 14.96

NO. OF ADVANCES: 23; NO. OF DECLINES: 45; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 27; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 95; NO. OF TRADES: 1,828

CURRENCIES

Sept. 28, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency In US$	Foreign currency In Peso
United States	Dollar	1.089562	1.000000	51.3550
Japan	Yen	0.009109	0.008360	0.4293
United Kingdom	Pound	1.606014	1.474000	75.6973
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.139706	0.128222	6.5848
Switzerland	Franc	0.675656	0.620117	31.8461
Canada	Dollar	0.690033	0.633312	32.5237
Singapore	Dollar	0.617665	0.566893	29.1128
Australia	Dollar	0.530613	0.486997	25.0097
Bahrain	Dinar	2.890239	2.652661	136.2274
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.290503	0.266624	13.6925
Brunei	Dollar	0.615920	0.565291	29.0305
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000113	0.000104	0.0053
Thailand	Baht	0.024506	0.022492	1.1551
UAE	Dirham	0.296722	0.272331	13.9856
Korea	Won	0.000840	0.000771	0.0396
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.917800	47.1336
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.469264	24.0991
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139918	7.1855
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.416479	21.3883
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066699	3.4253
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.022752	1.1684
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000474	0.0243
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.154363	7.9273
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004578	0.2351
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005516	0.2833
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024790	0.022752	1.1684
Ireland	Punt	1.269739	1.165366	59.8474

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SEC Licensed Golf & Club Shares Brokers No. 10573
268 Kalentong St., Mandaluyong City

SELLING:

Alabang A/B	1.6M/1.8M
Baguio Country Club	725,000
Calatagan A/B	Please call
Camp John Hay Golf	300,000
Canlubang Golf	700,000
Canyon Woods	280,000
Capitol Hills	135,000
Celebrity	200,000
Club Filipino	250,000
CC at Tagaytay Highland	380,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	400/450/600
E-ridge, Evrcrest, Font.ABCD	Please call
Forest Hills "A"/B/C	240/250/440
Manila Golf (Indv.)/Corp.	13M/15.7M
Manila Polo	2.8M
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	750,000/780,000
Makati Sports "A"/B	350/350
Metropolitan "A"/B	120M/160M
Mimosa	200,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/B/C	340/450/500
Orchard "A"/B/C	240/350/400
Puerto Azul	140,000
Quezon City Sports	240,000
Riviera "A"/B/C	200/Please call
Rockwell Club	Please call
Sta. Elena A/B	1.640M/2.2M
Sherwood	175,000
Subic Yacth (Indv.)	240/400
Tagaytay Highlands Club	380,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000
Valle Verde CC/Corp.	180,000
Valley Golf	250,000
Wack Wack	7M

BUYING:

Alabang A/B	1.6M/1.8M
Baguio Country Club	700,000
Camp John Hay Golf	300,000
Capitol Hills	130,000
Celebrity	200,000
Club Filipino	250,000
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	350,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)/Corp.	13M/15.7M
Manila Polo	2.7M
Manila Southwoods "A"/B	700,000/770,000
Makati Sports "A"/B	300,000/300,000
Mt. Malarayat "A"/B/C	Please call
Orchard "A"/B/C	200,000/350/350
Quezon City Sports	230,000
Riviera "A"/B/C	200,000/Please call
Sta. Elena A/B	1.640/2M
Sherwood	120,000
Tagaytay Highlands Club	380,000
Tagaytay Highland Golf	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000
Valle Verde CC/Corp	180,000/800,000
Valley Golf	250,000
Wack Wack	7M

Other shares & Playing rights: please call

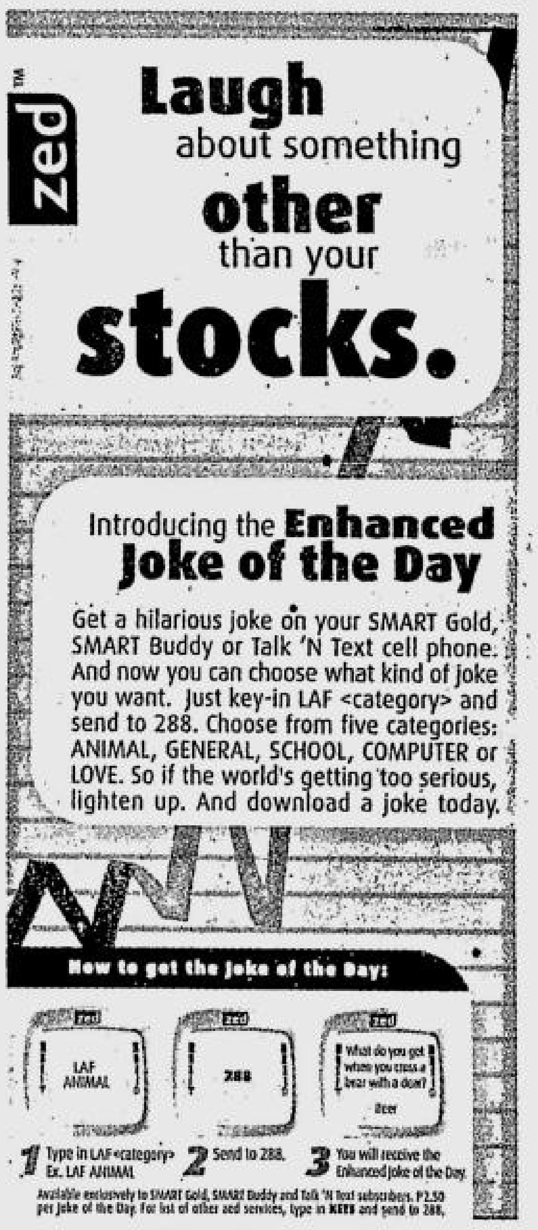
Connie Ang
Trading Manager/Real Estate Broker
Tagaytay Highlands condo, Bellview, Woodland, Pinecrest, Spa & lodge, LOT Greenhills, Corinthian, Greenmeadows, Dasma, Rawland, condo Sales & Rental
Tels: (24 Hours)
256-3188
256-6001
256-3891
09193577282

G & W clubshares
SEC License Broker No.: A-200017597
As of October 1, 2001

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A"	-	1,600,000
Alabang Country Club "B"	Best Offer	-
Camp John Hay	-	350,000
Capitol Hills Golf & CC	120,000	130,000
Canyon Woods	240,000	350,000
Calatagan	100,000	160,000
Canlubang	-	700,000
Celebrity Sports	-	200,000
Eagleridge "A"	300,000	400,000
Eastridge	-	220,000
Evercrest golf club "A"	Pls. Call	150,000
Forest Hills "A"	-	240,000
Fontana "D"	Pls. Call	90,000
Makati Sports Club	-	350,000
Manila Polo	2,400,000	3,200,000
Manila Golf "C"	14,000,000	17,000,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	700,000	-
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	900,000
Orchard	-	240,000
Phil. Columbian	-	90,000
Puerto Azul	-	170,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	220,000
Riviera Golf	-	220,000
Rockwell	-	500,000
Royale Tagaytay	-	110,000
Sherwoods	-	250,000
Sta. Elena Golf	-	Pls. Call
Subic Bay Yatch Club	200,000	300,000
Tagaytay Country Club	-	380,000
Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC	-	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	740,000	-
Valle Verde (Indv.)	155,000	Best Bid
Valle Verde "C"	300,000	Best Bid
Valley Golf	-	Pls. Call
Wack-Wack	-	7,800,000

PLAYING RIGHTS AVAILABLE

Sarah V. Samson
Trading Manager
Emelle C. Balahadia & Joy A. Vivas
Tel. No. 6359918/6359725/6359830/(0919)7041848
Mon. - Fri., 9:00 am - 6:00 pm Sat., 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Unit 1402 Medical Plaza Ortigas, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City



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BUY/SELL COUNTRY CLUB SHARES
AS OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2001

		ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
1.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,600,000.00	-
2.	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,900,000.00	-
3.	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	750,000.00	600,000.00
4.	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	100,000.00	-
5.	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	Please call	-
6.	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "A"	Please call	-
7.	CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB "C"	-	Please call
8.	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	135,000.00	-
9.	CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	-	Please call
10.	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	390,000.00	-
11.	EAGLERIDGE GOLD CLUB "B"	500,000.00	-
12.	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	340,000.00	-
13.	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,200,000.00	2,500,000.00
14.	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	-	Please call
15.	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Corporate)	16,000,000.00	Please call
16.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	750,000.00	Please call
17.	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	800,000.00	Please call
18.	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB	-	30,000.00
19.	MT. MALARAYAT "B"	450,000.00	-
20.	MT. MALARAYAT "C"	650,000.00	-
21.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A"	250,000.00	-
22.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B"	400,000.00	-
23.	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	600,000.00	-
24.	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB	140,000.00	-
25.	PUNTA FUEGO (IND.)	845,000.00	-
26.	ROCKWELL	600,000.00	-
27.	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	-	200,000.00
28.	STa. ELENA GOLF CLUB	1,700,000.00	
29.	SUBIC YATCH CLUB	750,000.00 all in	
30.	SPLENDIDO	600,000.00	-
31.	SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	350,000.00	-
32.	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	900,000.00	-
33.	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB	850,000.00	-
34.	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	-	180,000.00
35.	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	320,000.00	-
36.	VERDEMAR GOLF CLUB, INC. (CEBU)	Please call	-
37.	WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	7,250,000.00	7,000,000.00
38.	THE COUNTRY CLUB	Please call	-
39.	OTHERS	Please call	

PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB	30,000.00
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	70,000.00
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	30,000.00
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB	20,000.00
MANILA SOUTHWOODS	30,000.00
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB	65,000.00
TAGAYTAY INT'L. GOLF CLUB	60,000.00
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	50,000.00
VALLEY GOLF CLUB	15,000.00
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	90,000.00
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB	20,000.00
OTHERS	Please call

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Partial List 09/28/2001

CLUBS	ASKED Price
ALABANG "A"	1,620,000
BAGUIO CC	750,000
CANLUBANG GC	865,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	390,000
CELEBRITY CLUB	205,000
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,000,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	750,000
ORCHARD "A"	Call now
PHIL. COLUMBIAN	85,000
RIVIERA GCC "A" / "B"	Call now
ROCKWELL CLUB	585,000
STA. ELENA "A"	1,820,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	Call now
VALLEY GOLF	270,000
WACK-WACK GOLF	Call now

Share Swapping: Please Call

CLUBS	BID Price
ALABANG "A"	Call now
BAGUIO CC	Call now
EAGLERIDGE "C"	400,000
MAKATI SPORTS "A"	Call now
MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	13,000,000
MANILA POLO	Call now
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	700,000
ORCHARD "A"	Call now
QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	220,000
STA. ELENA "B"	Call now
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	Call now
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	Call now
VALLEY GOLF	260,000
VALLE VERDE	170,000

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	RIVIERA "A"	5,000
CANLUBANG GC	Call now	STA. ELENA "A"	65,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	35,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	35,000
MANILA GOLF	400,000	WACK WACK	90,000

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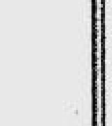

GG & A Club Shares
SEC License Broker #007575 * As of October 1, 2001

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	-	1,750,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,850,000
Baguio Country Club	-	800,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	80,000	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	115,000
Camp John Hay	-	330,000
Canlubang	-	800,000
Canyonwoods	-	350,000
Capitol Hills	120,000	135,000
Cebu Country Club	1,930,000	2,000,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	Please Call
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	220,000	240,000
Forest Hills "B"	220,000	240,000
Forest Hills "C"	-	350,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	300,000	325,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	-	375,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	15,000,000	16,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,700,000	3,000,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	700,000	750,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	750,000	800,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Metropolitan Club "B"	115,000	160,000
Montemar (Individual)	-	30,000
Mt. Malarayat	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	350,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	500,000
Philippine Columbian	75,000	85,000
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	150,000
Quezon City Sports Club	215,000	250,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	120,000	150,000
Sta. Elena "A"	-	1,700,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,800,000	2,200,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	400,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	220,000
Tagaytay Country Club	-	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	750,000	900,000
Tagaytay Midlands	700,000	750,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	175,000	190,000
Valley Golf	-	250,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	7,000,000	7,200,000

PLAYING RIGHTS

(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	40,000	Mimosa Golf	20,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	15,000
Canlubang	55,000	Riviera "A"	16,000
Eaglerdge	30,000	Sta. Elena	65,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	60,000
Manila Southwoods	40,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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DoF junks NGO plan to buy bonds

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE FINANCE department has shot down a proposal to finance the anti-poverty efforts of a private group chaired by the sister of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that the Caucus of Development NGO Network earlier proposed that the government float P15 billion worth of 10-year zero-coupon treasury notes to help the group establish the Hanap Buhay Fund aimed at poverty alleviation.

The proposal, however, raised the local financial community's fears of a crony deal in the making.

Camacho, however, said that he inhibited himself from getting involved in the transaction. He also directed National Treasurer Sergio Edeza to ensure transparency in any dealings involving Code NGO's proposal.

Code-NGO, an umbrella organization for NGOs, offered to purchase the treasury notes through Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and then turn around and sell these to RCBC Capital Corp., an investment house of the Yuchengco family-controlled bank.

Code-NGO earlier wanted the exclusive right to buy the bonds and resell them at a premium to prospective investors.

Upon full issuance of the notes, which would be called Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates or Peace bonds, the NGO group expected to raise some P1 billion in funds.

The proceeds would serve as a permanent endowment and capital fund to support micro-credit and capacity building projects for the poor.

It would have been up to the finance department to approve the proposal of Code-NGO, which was chaired by Socorro Camacho-Reyes, Camacho's sister.

Industry practitioners expressed concern that such a deal, as proposed, would give preferential treatment to a particular NGO or a financial institution.

Camacho said that Edeza and Finance Undersecretary Cornelo Gison have decided not to give any group exclusive rights to purchase the proposed 10-year zero coupon T-notes.

"It will be through an auction and available to all financial institutions," Camacho said. "As far as I know, whatever the features of the bonds that would be auctioned, whoever buys it, will enjoy the features of the bonds."

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, an attached agency of the finance department, has recently issued a tax ruling favorable to the issuance of the Peace bonds.

In a ruling dated Aug. 16, the BIR effectively said that the gains from the proposed zero coupon bonds would be exempt from income tax.

The BIR opinion basically affirmed a 1998 ruling by the late BIR Commissioner Beethoven Rualo that gave bonds with maturities of five years and longer a tax-exempt status.

Former Finance Secretary Jose Pardo, however, withdrew the Rualo ruling, saying that it did not correctly interpret the law.

The 1997 Tax Code provided that gains realized from the sale or exchange or retirement of bonds with maturity of more than five years were exempt from income tax.

The tax exemption, however, would apply only to the Peace bonds unless the BIR makes a blanket ruling covering all types of similar transactions.

Confirmation of 7 Cabinet men bucked

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A LAWYER has opposed the confirmation of seven Cabinet secretaries on grounds that they allowed their subordinates to "illegally" sit on the board of the state-run National Power Corp.

The seven secretaries named in the suit were Jose Isidro Camacho (finance), Vicente Perez Jr. (energy), Emilia Boncodin (budget), Leonardo Montemayor (agriculture), Heherson Alvarez (environment and natural resources), Jose Lina (interior and local government) and Manuel Roxas II (trade and industry).

Victoriano Orocio claimed in a document filed before the Commission on Appointments that Camacho and Perez should not be confirmed to their posts because they "refused to uphold and abide by the rule of law in tolerating the acts of the other five."

In an interview with the INQUIRER last week, Orocio said that Napocor officials told him that the five—Boncodin, Montemayor, Alvarez, Lina and Roxas—issued separate memoranda authorizing their subordinates to represent them permanently in Napocor's board meetings.

"They neglected their duties as members of the Napocor board by illegally delegating these duties when the law says they should be the ones who should sit in the board," Orocio said.

He cited Section 48 of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act as the basis for his petition. The law states:

"The new (Napocor) board shall be composed of the secretary of finance as chair, with the following as members: The secretary of energy, the secretary of budget and management, the secretary of agriculture, the director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, the secretary of environment and natural resources, the secretary of the interior and local government, the secretary of trade and industry and the president of (Napocor)."

Orocio added that the power law does not authorize the Cabinet secretaries to delegate these duties to other persons.

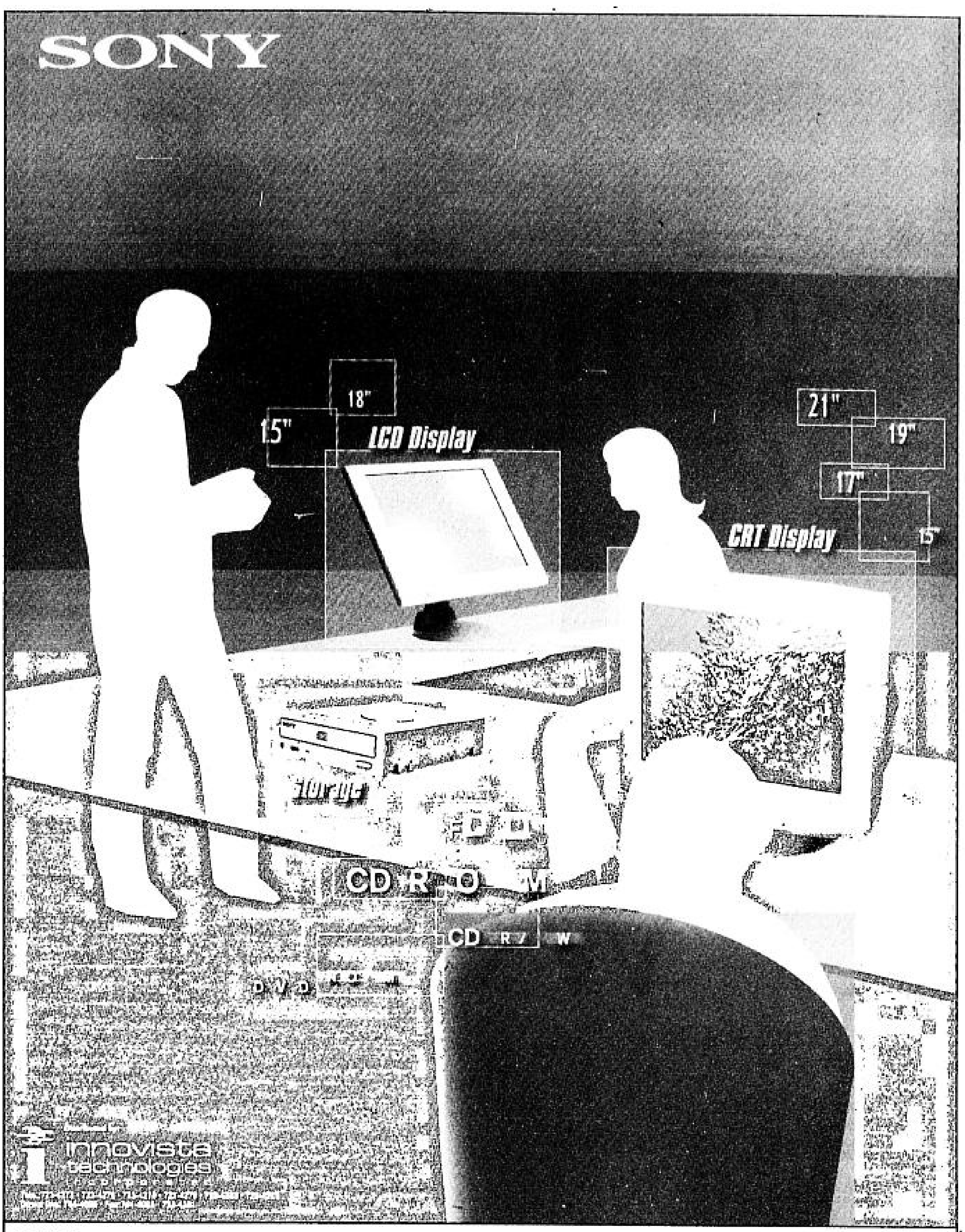
"A delegated power cannot be further delegated," he pointed out.

Orocio also said the board apparently never had a quorum since only the representatives of the five secretaries—who comprise a majority of the 9-member Napocor board—attended the meetings.

This meant, he said, that the board's resolutions, most of which involved contracts costing "between P100 million and P1 billion or more," are void.

Orocio, himself a former Napocor employee, explained that he "stumbled" on the matter in the course of pursuing unpaid claims of fellow retirees from the power firm's welfare fund.

He is counsel to more than 300 Napocor retirees claiming P19 million in employer's contributions to the fund.



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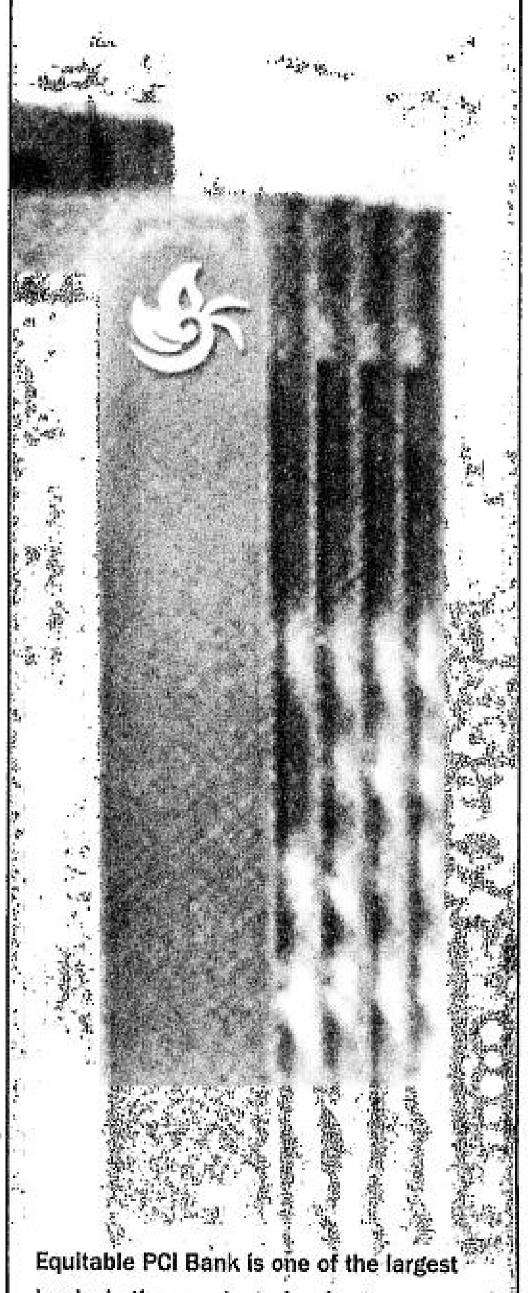

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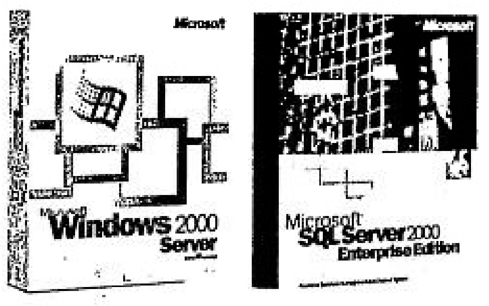

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Retail trade is RP's biggest employer–NSO

SALE
NEW ARRIVALS
NEW

By Doris C. Dumlao

WHOLESALE and retail trade is the country's biggest employer and most dominant enterprise, suggesting that more businessmen are finding more incentives selling goods than producing these themselves, according to the National Statistics Office.

Analysts say the NSO's data also show that it is now easier to break even selling finished goods than going through the tedious process of producing them.

An NSO survey last year showed that more than half the country's 820,960 establishments were in wholesale and retail trade, with manufacturing ranking a far second with a 15.3-percent share.

The No. 3 employer was the hotel and restaurant sector, with 10.9 percent of the country's establishments into this line of business, followed by other community, social and personal services activities, 5 percent; real estate, renting and business activities, 4.9 percent; health and social work, 3.5 percent; financial intermediation, 2.9 percent; and, transport, storage and communications, 1.9 percent.

In terms of size, the NSO survey showed that nearly all—95.2 percent—of companies in wholesale and retail trade were micro in scale. Small establishments made up 4.6 percent of the total; medium firm, 0.1 percent; and large firms, 0.07 percent.

Companies in the manufacturing sector tended to be large. Eighty-seven percent were large companies, while 11.3 percent were medium-scale, 11.3 percent were small and one percent were micro.

In terms of employment, wholesale and retail trade absorbed the most number of employees, but manufacturing followed very closely.

"Since establishments in wholesale and retail trade were primarily very micro, the sector was able to absorb only 1.8 million workers, or 30.3 percent of the total, with 62.2 percent working in micro establishments. On the other hand, manufacturing showed a reversal, as it employed a total of 1.6 million workers, or 26.9 percent," PIDS' Austria said in her report.

Her report showed that 45.9 percent of workers in the manufacturing sector were working for large establishments, as against 12 percent in the wholesale and retail trade sector.

Some 485,000 were working in hotels and restaurants, nearly all in micro, small and medium-scale establishments.

Workers in real estate, renting and other business activities numbered about 431,000, with 59 percent in micro, small and medium-scale establishments.

On the whole, very small establishments still accounted for more than 90 percent of the total. Being the center of industrial and business activities in the country, the National Capital Region had the greatest contribution to the total number of establishments and to total employment, compared to the corresponding figures recorded for the other regions.

Air lib fails to spur trade, investments

THE COUNTRY'S air liberalization policy begun six years ago has failed to spur investment, trade and tourism through convenient and efficient airline services, according to the Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

In a study penned by senior research fellow Myrna Austria, PIDS, a state-run think tank, urged the government to implement Executive Order 219 that the Ramos administration issued in 1995.

"The government also needs to deepen its liberalization efforts by adopting a more flexible approach to its bilateral air agreements. Even if it has succeeded in privatizing Philippine Airlines (Inc.), privatization without regard for effective competition will only lead to the privatization of monopoly rents," Austria said.

"Given the huge capital requirement of the industry, privatization could be considerably enhanced if existing restrictions on foreign ownership could be made less strict," she added.

EO 219 also called for the designation of at least two more flag carriers. The Ramos administration had wanted to negotiate its air services agreements with other governments with the national interest in mind instead of the interests of PAL, which was then the country's sole flag carrier.

PIDS' Austria said PAL, to this day, remained uncontested as a flag carrier because the implementing rules and regulations of EO 219 had yet to be issued.

"The negotiation of the country's (air services agreements) fell short (of) reflecting the change in policy," she said.

She said EO 219 should have proven useful during an air dispute between the Philippines and Taiwan in 1999 and 2000, but it did not because the law had yet to take effect.

"With the vagueness of the government on which issues constituted national interest, the impression given was that the country's aviation policy was still to ensure the viability of PAL," she said.

Austria also concluded that airline capacity and frequencies were still predetermined. Any change in market conditions that required subsequent changes in needed capacities and frequencies were still subject to re-negotiations, she said.

She also noted that fares still needed the approval of aviation authorities, and that restrictions in local ownership remained. Foreign airlines had yet to be allowed to fly domestic routes, she said.

The absence of domestic competition, Austria said, led to inefficiency in the operations of PAL and other local airlines, and in unused seat entitlements, an indication that there were opportunities for domestic carriers to operate additional international services without the government requesting for greater capacity under the country's existing air services agreements.

Doris C. Dumlao

SEC clears registration of mutual fund

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved the application to register a P100-million mutual fund called the Vantage Money Market Fund Inc.

The mutual fund has an authorized capital stock of P100 million with a par value of P1. A quarter of its capital stock has been subscribed and paid up by Wealth Securities Inc. of broker Wilson Sy. The balance of P75 million will be offered to the public.

The Vantage Money Market Fund will operate as an investment company with a focus on short-term capital appreciation through investments in money market instruments with maturities of a year or less.

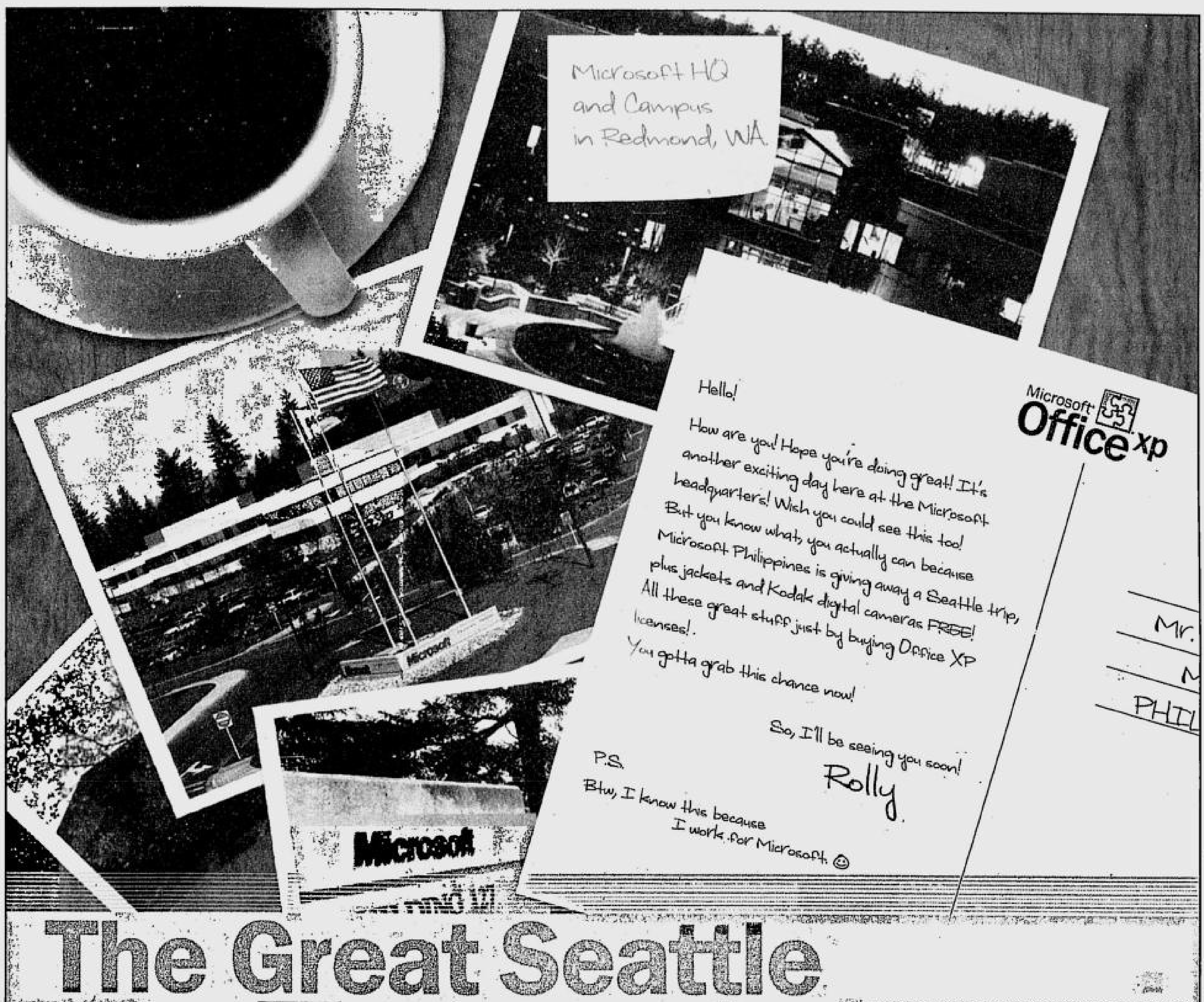
The fund aims to provide small investors the opportunity to avail themselves of low-risk money market debt securities that ordinarily require high minimum investments and to reap modest but satisfactory returns on their investments through professional management and supervision of the funds.

The fund will maintain a portfolio consisting of debt securities focusing on industries and enterprises with strong potential or profitable historical financial performances.

There may be concentration on certain industries at various points in time depending on the overall condition of the financial markets.

Philequity Management Inc. is the mutual fund's investment manager and principal distributor.

The share price of the fund will be equivalent to the net asset value per share on the day of the purchase. Net asset value per share refers to the difference between the total assets of the fund and its total liabilities divided by the number of shares outstanding.



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7. Six (6) grand prize winners will be drawn on January 30, 2002 at the office of Microsoft Philippines, Inc., 22/F The Enterprise Center Tower II, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. Winners will be notified both by registered mail and by telephone.
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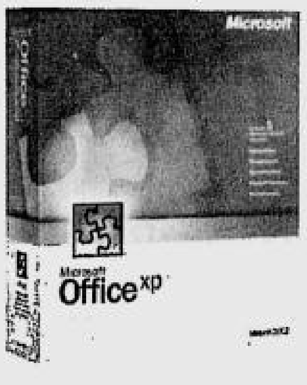

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New law buys time, but sanctions still likely

After much hemming and hawing, a law on dirty money has finally been passed. Will it be enough?

By Raul C. Dancel and Elena R. Torrijos

(First of three parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

SO what happens now?

On Saturday, President Macapagal-Arroyo signed into a law a bill drafted to crack down on money laundering and wipe off the country's image as a haven for "dirty money."

Critics of the new law say it is so "watered down" that financial regulators abroad may just send it to the trash bin even before they even finish reading it, and that what the government has succeeded in doing is simply buy more time. Its defenders concede that the law may be imperfect, but they argue that it is better than having nothing at all.

Its No. 1 defender, the President herself, considers it a "miracle" that Congress can come up with something in so short a time.

The anti-money laundering law came after Congress held weeks of marathon sessions to beat a Sept. 30 deadline set by the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force. The FATF, a money laundering watchdog supported by 28 developed countries, had threatened to slap financial sanctions that experts said could cripple the Philippine economy.

A satisfied Ms Macapagal told lawmakers: "Last August, a newspaper said it would be a miracle if Congress could pass such a vital, controversial bill in just a month. Well, Congress has made that miracle happen." She told members of Congress that they had spared the country's businessmen and overseas workers from the added burden that would have been imposed had they missed the deadline. Or did they?

Sanctions still possible

For the Bankers Association of the Philippines, the issue does not end with the passage of the anti-money laundering law.

"The sanctions are still possible if, in (the FATF's) judgement, the legal framework is not sufficient," BAP executive director Leonilo Coronel told the INQUIRER.

"I am not sure whether the law, as we passed it, eventually would meet the approval of the FATF. The best that we can have is to be like a Nauru," Coronel said.

Nauru, regarded as a haven for dirty money, like the Philippines, approved in August its own anti-money laundering law, but it fell short of the FATF's expectations. The FATF gave Nauru until Nov. 30 to come up with a better law.

"I wouldn't want to appear criticizing our lawmakers, but I also couldn't hide my disappointment that we could have done better to increase our chances that this law will pass the scrutiny of the FATF," former Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida, head of the task force that drafted the anti-money laundering bill proposed by the executive branch, said.

Laundering law

The new anti-money laundering law covers suspicious bank deposits—individually or in series within a five-day period—of at least P4 million.

Convictions include fines and seven to 14 years in jail for directly violating the law, four to seven years for facilitating money laundering and six months to four years for failing to report it.

Banks and other financial institutions will be required to establish and record a client's identity, including the legal existence and organizational structure of a corporate client.

A new anti-money laundering unit under the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will be empowered to look into questionable transactions. If the agency finds strong evidence, it could ask the courts to freeze a suspect bank account for 15 days. A freeze order would bring simultaneous notice to the depositor, who would have 72 hours to explain why the order should be lifted.

The agency will be allowed to assist a foreign government—and seek such assistance—in tracking down, freezing and seizing assets that allegedly are proceeds from 14 crimes specified in the law, ranging from corruption and drug trafficking to kidnapping and terrorism.

Ms Macapagal said one of the law's first uses would be to trace and choke off the finances of the Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim extremist group engaged in its second kidnapping-for-ransom of tourists in a year.

The absence of an anti-money laundering bill has prevented the government from cracking down on the hidden funds of terror groups linked to Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, the main suspect behind the attacks that killed thousands in the United States on Sept. 11.

Not happy, but...

Some legislators said they weren't entirely happy, but the law was the best they could do given the situation.

Legislators tried to strike a balance between giving police the tools needed to fight increasingly sophisticated criminals and preventing harassment or the erosion of civil liberties.

Some lawmakers suggested suspicious bank accounts should be investigated regardless of the amount, arguing criminals could try to circumvent the law by depositing smaller amounts.

While rewards and other incentives are available for those who initiate an investigation that ends in conviction, people who file false reports can be punished with six months to four years in jail and a fine.

Other provisions ban filing a case during an election period or disclosing information on a transaction to the media.

Within the investigation period, officials would have to secure court permission to investigate an account, identify its owner and compel him or her to disclose the money's source. They also could initiate moves to seize the funds if there is strong evidence the money is laundered.

Loaded gun

Some legislators had strongly resisted weakening the secrecy of bank accounts and had refused to allow authorities to open accounts without a court order.

Assistant Minority Leader Rolex Suplico, who voted against the bill, said the Philippines was pressured into passing it.

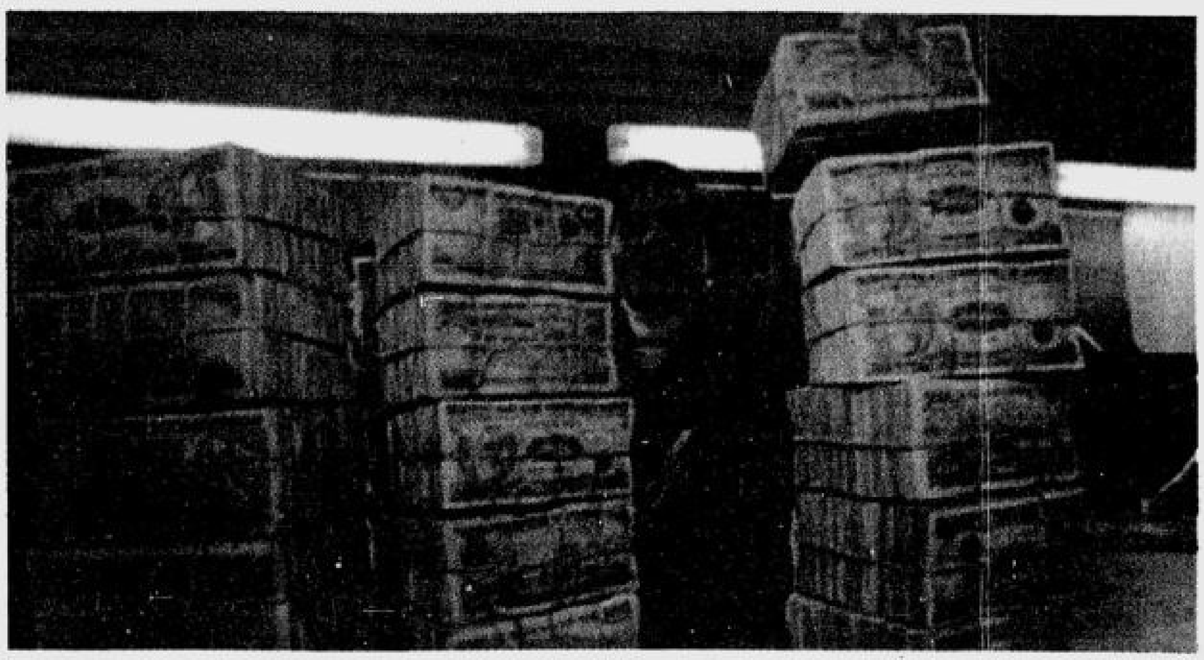
"We were made to work with a loaded gun," he complained.

But Senate President Franklin Drilon said: "The final version meets all the basic requirements of the task force and eventually remove the Philippines from the blacklist of suspected money laundering havens."

Ms Macapagal said, judging from what she had seen, the bill was "all right."

"It fulfills the minimum requirements that the international banks are looking for," she said.

She emphasized that it was important to have a bill—however flawed—in place by Sept. 30 to escape sanctions. It would be possible to improve the legislation later, she added. *(To be continued)*



MONEY in a bank vault. With a new law against money laundering, the government is hoping to come down hard on the flow of "dirty money" in the financial system.

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Napocor records 33.8% 1-day sales hike

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STATE-RUN National Power Corp. generated P634 million in revenues from its one-day power sales scheme for the first eight months of the year, up 33.8 percent from P473.9 million recorded in the same period last year.

This meant that Napocor was well on its way to meeting its full-year target earnings from the one-day power sales currently pegged at P1 billion.

Napocor documents showed that power sales were highest in August at P102 million which was attributed to the increase in the number of firms that were accredited to bid for the contract to purchase electricity direct from Napocor.

Napocor has so far accredited 60 power-intensive customers, 49 of which are active bidders.

These include Dragon Textile Mills Inc., Premium Packaging International Inc., Fibertex Corp. and Solid Cement Corp.

But despite the entry of new customers this year, there was only a minimal growth in energy sales this year compared with last year.

"This is due to a number of suspensions or cancellations of the daily auction due to the frequent outages of Napocor's and Manila Electric Co.'s baseload plants," Napocor data showed.

A baseload generator operates throughout the day and provides the minimum power requirement of consumers. With the frequent outages, auctions for one-day sales contracts were suspended nine times in August.

Electricity traded through the scheme in the first eight months reached 1,238 gigawatthours, 43 percent up from last year's 865 gwh.

In previous reports, Napocor said the steady growth this year of the one-day power sales was due in part to the agreement between Napocor and the Manila Electric Co. to allow the utility's "embedded" customers to take part in the program.

Embedded customers refer to bulk power users, mainly industries, that generate their own electricity although they are operating within Meralco's franchise area.

Trading under the one-day power sales scheme is done through an online bidding system.

To qualify for bidding, customers should have a minimum self-generation capacity of one megawatt.

Of the 60 accredited customers, about 30 are among Meralco's embedded customers, including Republic Glass Asahi, Fortune Tobacco Corp., Toyota Motor Philippines Corp., Colgate-Palmolive Philippines, Asia Brewery, Union Ajinomoto and Nestlé Philippines.

China seen absorbing RP coconut imports

By Christine A. Gaylican

EXPORT markets for local coconut oil in China are being eyed to offset the expected drop in export revenues from sales to Europe and the United States.

Danilo Coronacion, administrator of the Philippine Coconut Authority, said the $900-million coconut industry can be tapped to offset the anticipated 15-percent reduction in the country's exports to the US due to the escalating conflict with Muslim extremists.

Possible markets include China, South Korea and Japan.

Coconut oil, which is extracted from dried coconut meat, is the country's biggest farm export product.

"We will soon sign a product-swap arrangement with China. They would give us farm machinery and other equipment in exchange for our coconut oil," Coronacion said.

The expected decline in exports to the United States coincided with the decline in Europe's purchases of Philippine coconut oil. Aside from the uncertainties following the terrorist attacks on the US, the decline was also attributed to the more stringent import measures on agricultural products.

European countries such as United Kingdom and France clamped down on the entry of agricultural products as they begin to trace the origins of the mad cow disease that plagued their cattle industry, causing millions of dollars in losses.

"We hope to instead increase our coconut oil exports to South Korea and other Asian countries as a contingency measure since industry expects lower exports to Europe," Coronacion said.

PCA and the agriculture department are also looking into other uses for coconut oil to service both domestic and foreign markets, in a bid to cushion the impact of fluctuating prices in the world market.

The domestic market currently absorbs about 20 percent of the coconut oil produced by the industry and used for commercial and industrial manufacturing purposes and about 70 percent are exported to the United States, Europe and to other Asian countries.

He said that they would pursue the marketing of coco-diesel and coco-bunker fuel as substitutes for the expensive fossil fuels now being sold by local oil firms. Coco-diesel is currently priced at P12 to P12.50 per liter while the diesel sold at gas stations are at about P14 to P14.50 per liter.

The PCA would also push for the use of coconut oil in making detergents instead of hard surfactants.

The PCA chief expected that export prices of coconut oil would remain low this year due to a global oversupply of vegetable oils.

Copra prices are estimated to hit $289.50 per metric ton this year, lower than the annual average $300 per metric ton price. Last year, copra prices in the world market averaged $446 per metric ton.

SM, Robinson's to put up malls in Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The SM group of companies and the Robinson's retail chains have expressed their plan to build shopping malls here, a top official of Clark Development Corp. said.

CDC president and chief executive Emmanuel Angeles said CDC was meeting with representatives of the Sy and Gokongwei families to discuss the construction and operation of Shoemart and Robinson's shopping malls inside Clark.

The CDC board is already deliberating on the proposal of SM, he said.

Angeles said the two mall operators could lease lands here at around 30 US cents per square meter for 50 years.

He also disclosed that big companies in Makati like the Ayala group of companies were planning various projects, including the establishment of industrial parks inside Clark.

"I just did not want to make announcements until these are done deals. I wanted to wait until the agreements are signed. Meetings are being held with these prospective investors," he said.

Clark has 290 locators, 75 of which are foreign firms.

United Parcel Service, the world's biggest courier firm, is set to operate its intra-Asia hub at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here this December.

UPS originally planned to start its operation here last month, but some obstacles made it delay its plan by three months.

Among these problems is the power problem here, which is currently being resolved by CDC, according to Angeles.

The Atlanta-based firm cannot afford an electric power interruption because it has to deliver all its cargoes to its international destinations within 24 hours.

The country is expected to earn $3,500 daily from the operation of UPS. *Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Exporting vegetables not good for farmers

BAGUIO CITY—Exporting agricultural products is not beneficial to local farmers because of expensive production cost, according to a European-funded research group that is developing highland farming in the country.

Belgian Georges Dehuox, co-director of the Caraballo and Southern Cordillera Agricultural Development Program (Cascade), said upland farmers woul only be losing more money if they insisted on exporting local agricultural products.

"Export tariff payment is too high yet cost of exported products is too low," he said.

Benguet Governor Raul Molintas supported Dehuox's statement, saying that although Benguet was known as the country's salad bowl, the province could not join the export market.

"Production cost of vegetables is too high. Producers will only be spending more on tariff payments than what they will actually earn," he told the INQUIRER on Thursday.

Dehuox identified the pine needle products of Itogon, Benguet, and ginger tea of Nueva Vizcaya, as two exportable highland products.

Molintas said he formed a commission to study the condition of Cordillera farmers and the cost of farm production in preparation for the implementation of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in 2005.

The commission is also tasked to study and recommend safety nets for the vegetable industry.

Molintas said they had been encouraging farmers to stop using imported farm inputs like fertilizers and pesticides to reduce production cost.

"We need to reduce production cost to compete globally. Taiwan vegetables are sold cheaper than our products because of cheaper production cost," he said.

But he expressed fear that when GATT is implemented, vegetable products from other countries could kill the local industry. Sixty percent of the Cordillera population depends on agriculture.

He said he had recommended to Malacañang the reduction of tariff on the importation of machineries for processing activities.

"Mechanization to reduce production cost is what the Cordillera needs to compete in the world market," he said. *Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

BIR seeks participation in target-setting process

By Elena
R. Torrijos

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is seeking participation in the process of setting revenue targets, currently being undertaken by the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee.

The DBCC, composed of various representatives of government economic departments, has required the BIR to meet a revenue target of P388 billion this year and P447 billion next year.

BIR commissioner Rene Banez said there should be some agreement on the methodology to be used by DBCC and Congress in setting revenue targets and that the BIR could provide important inputs.

He observed that the government would now have to closely watch international developments arising from the terrorist attacks on America because there might be a need to change economic targets if the global economic situation would worsen.

It appeared, however, that the BIR would be able to meet its collection target for this year, he added.

Meanwhile, Banez said that the BIR was still looking at refining its draft regulations for the gross modified income tax system being pursued by the finance department.

Banez noted that it would probably be unfair if a uniform cap on expenses would be imposed on all types of businesses.

"Depending on the nature of the business, the type of expenses they incur would vary," Banez said. "We need some guidance, probably from the industries themselves."

The BIR chief said that the government might present two to three sets of proposals during public hearings so it could get the public's sentiments on the issue.

Palace reviews Naia III contract

MALACAÑANG has placed under review the controversial contract governing the construction and operation of Terminal III of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

Earlier, Transportation and Communications Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez announced that he had sought the opinion of the Department of Justice on the alleged objectionable and onerous provisions of the contract.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the review in a press conference in Clark, Pampanga after ceremonies renaming Clark International Airport into Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) on the occasion of the 91st birth anniversary of her late father.

"It's under review," the President said in answer to a question as to whether Malacañang would give in to mounting demands to abrogate the contract in view of the alleged onerous provisions.

The $350-million Terminal III project was awarded during the Ramos administration to Philippine Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco). The contract was allegedly mangled by the Estrada administration by inserting onerous amendments.

One of the amendments is a provision limiting the passenger capacity of what is now DMIA to 850,000 passengers yearly until such time that Terminal III reaches a load of 10 million passengers per year for three consecutive years. The existing facility at the former US air base can handle at least 1.5 million passengers per year.

Even as she announced the review of the Piatco contract, President Macapagal said Alvarez assured her that "Clark can still be an international airport even if Piatco is there."

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WORLD BANK REPORT

Growth to fall, poverty to rise after attacks

WASHINGTON—The World Bank sharply cut its 2002 forecast for growth in industrialized countries one to 1.5 percent from an original estimate of 2.2 percent in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

As a result of the attacks and their impact on the global economy, growth in developing countries will be significantly reduced as well, causing a surge in the number of people around the world living in poverty, the bank said in a staff report on the attacks obtained by Reuters.

"The terrorist attacks hit the global economy at a particularly vulnerable moment," the World Bank wrote in a paper called "Impact of the Sept. 11 events on developing countries: A preliminary assessment."

"The rate of Gross Domestic Product growth (GDP) in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries could be lower by 0.75 to 1.25 percent in 2002."

According to the document, prior to Sept. 11, the bank was expecting growth in developed countries to reach 1.1 percent this year, but this had now been revised down to 0.9 percent, while growth for next year was seen at 2.2 percent, now expected to hit only one to 1.5 percent.

In developing countries, the bank originally forecast economies to expand at a 2.9-percent clip this year, but this has been revised down slightly to 2.8 percent. In 2002, economies in the developing world are now expected to grow at 3.5 to 3.8 percent, down from 4.3 percent before the attacks.

The bank's forecasts assume a "relatively rapid return to normal business, no further disruptive political events and relatively normal responses from business and consumers."

If these assumptions prove to be correct, the economy may rebound more strongly than the 2.8-percent growth that was forecast by the bank before Sept. 11. But the bank points out that much uncertainty remains.

"The depth of recessionary trends and the speed of recovery will depend on market psychology and future policies as well as unpredictable military events," the report notes.

Policy measures needed

To ensure that the rebound is a strong one in 2003, the bank urges a "vigorous and vigilant" policy response.

"Building additional coordination into the conduct of economic policy, particularly monetary policy, could help counteract large shocks in the global financial system," the report said.

The bank also calls on industrialized nations to provide more development finance as private capital flows dry up, and to demonstrate commitment to a round of trade talks for developing countries. Developing countries, meanwhile, should concentrate on structural reforms to encourage investment.

The bank estimates that new commitments of flows from capital markets to developing countries may fall to around $10 billion per month through the end of the year, compared with an average of $15 billion in the first eight months of the year.

The magnitude of the drop would be "somewhat less" than during the 1998 Russian default and the Brazilian crisis.

Foreign direct investment, the single most important source of external finance to developing countries, will also drop.

The bank estimates that foreign direct investment flows in 2001 will be slightly below last year's $168 billion. In 2002, investment is now likely to ease further to $150 billion to $160 billion versus an increase that had been anticipated before Sept. 11.

There may also be some negative impact from the volatility of commodity prices for importing and exporting countries.

Poverty to increase sharply

Africa, in particular, may see a rise of 2 million to 3 million people who live in poverty because of the effects of falling commodity prices. Globally, an extra 15 million people could find themselves living in poverty in 2002 because of the attacks.

In the Middle East and Northern Africa, countries may be hit by regional tension or lower oil prices.

"The region could be profoundly affected due to its proximity to military action, ensuing loss of tourism revenues and foreign direct investment, escalating costs of trade due to war-risk premia, and rising internal political tensions," the bank said.

Central Asian countries may also endure political tensions, the potential for high refugee inflows and less investment. *Reuters*

ANSETT planes taxi in line on the tarmac while a Qantas jet takes off over head in Sydney, Australia. Ansett returned to the skies on Saturday after being grounded for nearly three weeks because of the carrier's spiraling debts.

AP

Consumer worries fan US recession fears

WASHINGTON—The US economy grew at a slightly stronger pace than previously thought in the second quarter, but plunging consumer confidence fanned fears that a recession might follow the Sept. 11 hijacked airplane attacks.

The Commerce Department on Friday boosted its estimate of the growth of US gross domestic product to 0.3 percent for the three months ended in June. It previously said GDP had grown 0.2 percent.

But a key gauge of consumer attitudes fell to its lowest level in nearly eight years, a poor sign for spending trends.

"That would be consistent with the reports that consumers have been pulling back on their spending after the terrorist attacks," said Gary Thayer, chief economist at AG Edwards and Sons in St. Louis. "There's a greater risk that we will be in a recession for the next few quarters."

Though the GDP and confidence were weak, they exceeded financial market expectations so they sent stock prices higher. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 166 points, or nearly 2 percent, to 8,847.

Investors also reacted positively to news that a barometer of manufacturing activity in the Chicago area rose in September. The National Association of Purchasing Management-Chicago said its Chicagoland Business Barometer rose this month to a seasonally adjusted 46.6 from 43.5 in August.

However, the University of Michigan's final consumer sentiment index fell to 81.8 in September from 91.5 in August, sources said. It was somewhat higher than the index that economists polled by Reuters had forecast—a drop to 79.6. *Reuters*

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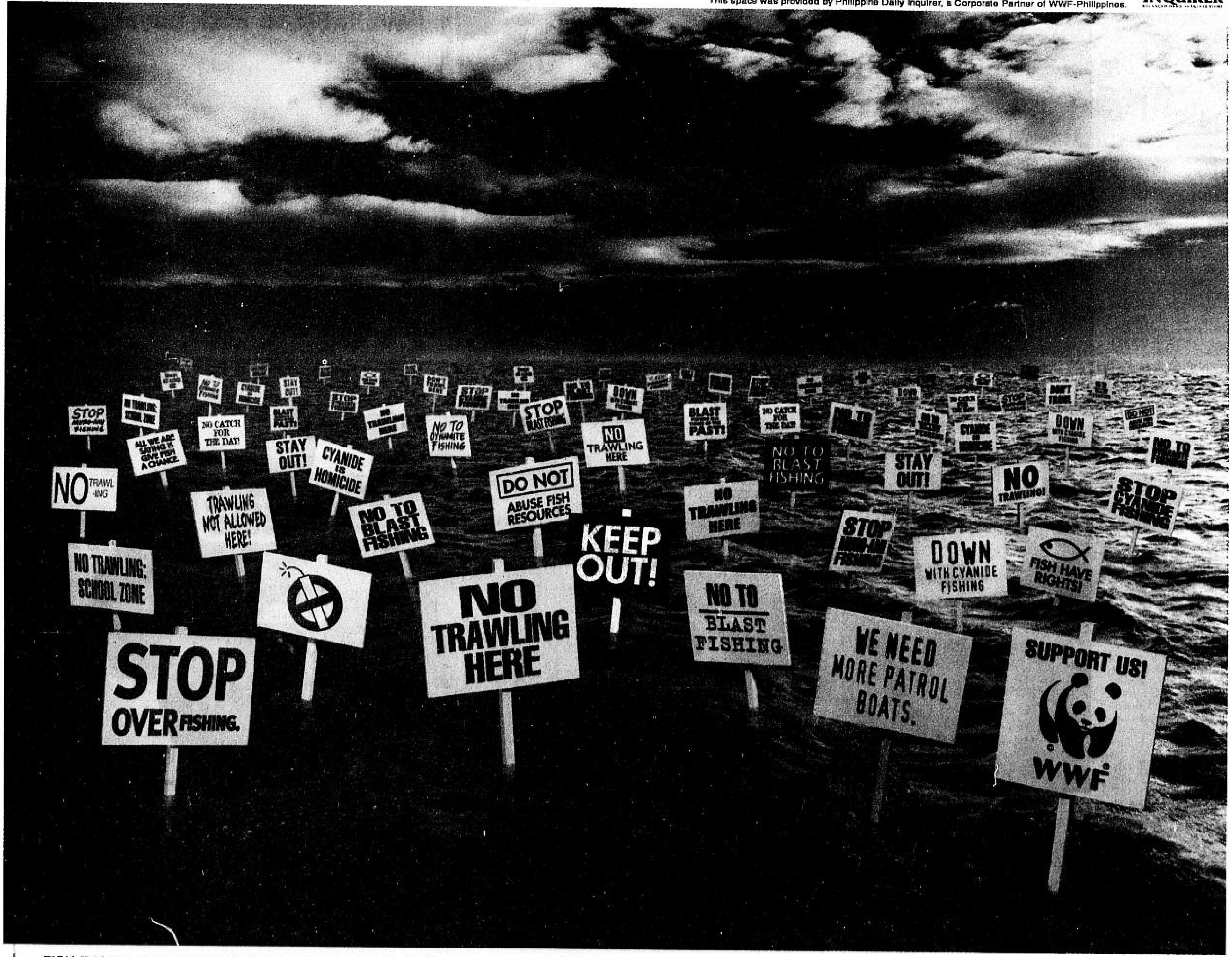

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Wall Street sees sharp cut in Fed rates

NEW YORK—Wall Street expects another sharp Federal Reserve interest rate cut this week to help absorb the economic shock of the Sept. 11 attacks on New York's financial district and the Pentagon, a poll on Friday showed.

Of the 25 primary dealers of US government securities surveyed, 21 forecast the central bank would lower the 3-percent federal funds rate on overnight bank lending to 2.5 percent on Oct. 2, and four said it would cut it to 2.75 percent.

Most of the firms that deal directly with the Fed in money markets expect it to continue to cut rates after this week's expected move. Twelve predicted the funds rate would reach 2 percent by yearend, 10 said it would be 2.25 percent and three said it would stand at 2.5 percent.

The US economy was already on the brink of recession before hijackers slammed commercial airliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, decimating the twin towers and leaving nearly 6,500 dead or missing. There is broad agreement on Wall Street that the economy is now in a recession.

"The assumption is that things were pretty soft before the terrorist attack and the attack will be disruptive for a quarter or so—then we'll bounce back from it," said James Glassman, a senior economist at JP Morgan in New York.

The full economic impact of the attacks will not be known for some time, economists said. The Dow Jones industrial average of blue-chip stocks is down about 8 percent since Sept. 11, consumer confidence is falling, the airline industry is in disarray and business and consumer spending is expected to be weak for months to come.

The Fed has already cut rates eight times this year by a total of 3.5 percentage points. The last cut came on Sept. 17, on the morning the US stock market reopened after being shut for four trading sessions in the aftermath of the attacks. The Fed lowered the funds rate by half a point at that time.

In the last Reuters Fed poll conducted on Sept. 7, before the attacks and the latest rate cut, 22 primary dealers predicted a quarter-point reduction in funds on Oct. 2, two forecast a half-point cut and one firm saw no change.

All but two of the 25 firms polled said Fed funds would reach its trough in the fourth quarter of this year. But some expect official rates to remain at those low levels for a while because the recovery will be slow in coming.

"It's going to be a long trough. We're going to be drinking from that trough for a while," said David Resler, chief economist at Nomura Securities International.

Glassman said his firm's forecast now showed a larger contraction than it had seen before the attacks, followed by a sharper and more vigorous rebound in the spring due to heavy fiscal and monetary stimulus.

Peter Kretzmer, senior economist at Banc of America Securities, said he expects only a quarter-point rate cut this week and added that it was not clear a half-point cut will end the slump any more quickly.

"What has occurred has to run its course," Kretzmer said.

"Consumption will be declining rapidly in the fourth quarter no matter what the Fed does. It has to do with confidence in the external environment and things beyond Fed control." *Reuters*

TRADERS work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. The Dow Jones closed up 165.79 Friday to give Wall Street a solid one-week rebound from the losses that followed the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

AP

Saudi says Opec may have to cut oil output

NICOSIA—The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries may have to cut output if the slump in oil prices continues, but it should not rush into any move that will destabilize the market, Saudi Oil Minister Ali al-Nuaimi has said.

In an interview with the Middle East Economic Survey obtained by Agence France Presse on Saturday, Nuaimi said the oil cartel might have to curb output beyond the 500,000 barrels per day provided for in its so-called price band mechanism.

On the other hand, Opec may not need to do anything before its next meeting on Nov. 14, Nuaimi told the authoritative Nicosia-based newsletter a day after Opec ministers wound up a meeting in Vienna.

The Opec ministers decided to keep output level unchanged at 23.2 million barrels per day (bpd), but said they could cut production in early October if prices, which have tumbled more than 20 percent since the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the US, remain weak.

Opec will apply its price mechanism, which provides for an automatic cut in output of 500,000 bpd if prices persist below $22 a barrel for a 10-day period, Opec president Chakib Khelil said Thursday.

"We may activate the mechanism, but we may need to do more than is provided for in the mechanism," Nuaimi told MEES.

"In other words, it would probably be more like a discussion over the phone among the oil ministers concerned—like what we did in July—if we have to before Nov. 14," he said.

Nuaimi said it was not true that Opec "micromanages the market."

"What we do is set a price band, and within that band we made a preference of $25 a barrel," he said.

"The second thing is we set a direction for that price. When it is $28 or higher, our direction is to add more supply. When it is at $22 a barrel or lower, our direction is to withdraw supply."

But the Saudi oil chief, whose country is the world's largest oil exporter, said Opec should avoid any move that would contribute to destabilizing the market.

"With the economic situation today, it is wise to watch the market a little bit and not contribute to destabilizing it," Nuaimi said.

"We just implemented the one-million-bpd cut in production in September," he said.

"That hasn't even been felt in the market yet. This is another reason why we need to wait and see the impact of that action—again to avoid destabilizing the market.

"I'm not really sure we need to do anything before our Nov. 14 meeting."

Nuaimi said Opec member states had made a "very firm commitment" to adhere to their output quotas.

Non-Opec oil producers were "no less" committed to cooperate to protect crude prices, Nuaimi said.

"They are, however, concerned because of their creditors, who of course have an influence on what they can and cannot do," he said.

"Their cooperation with us is good," Nuaimi said, citing Mexico, Norway, Oman, and "even Russia, to some degree."

"(But) what we have to recognize is that each one of those countries has another relationship that impacts the publicity of their positions," he added.

The price of Brent North Sea crude for November delivery dived as low as $20.70 a barrel Friday, levels not seen for almost two years.

By Friday afternoon, Brent had stabilized somewhat at $23.03 from $25.90 a week earlier.

In New York, October-dated light sweet crude futures dropped to $23.20 from $26.73 the previous Friday.

The Opec basket price stood at $20.68 on Thursday—below $22 for the fourth successive day. *AFP*

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NOW OPEN... Selling Lawns, Gardens, and Estate Lots
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The Heritage Park,
Corporate Bldg., Bayani Road,
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SAN JUAN

G'hills 3BR P5.5M 723-2391

G'hills LPL 1BR FF P20T 1Beverly 3BR P25T 723-2391

One BEV Place Annapolis 3BR, S-Furn 0917-8111498

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

2B/R U-D 3620065 Briones 7Ave

QUEZON CITY

Brand New Apt. For Rent •Cubao QC Call 721-8083

HOUSE

SAN JUAN

G'hills Bung 3BR P60T 4BR 1000 P90T Call 723-2391

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

PROVINCIAL

Albur Bohol Facing Sea Pref. Foreigner Call 821-3820

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Prince P Greenbelt Makati Exec FF Studio P12T/mo •Call 8788400 M-F•

MANILA

Sta Ana Condo 4 Rent Nr Mkti, La Salle 2BR-11T 1BR-8T 563-7395 • 562-7854 Maritess

MANDALUYONG

1BR Duplex @ Mandaluyong P8,500/mo. Must See 534-6230

PASIG

ORTIGAS 2BR 18T 126m² MdsRm Pool 2588019

Twnhse 4BR 2TB w/Grd Kapitolyo Pasig P25T Look 634-3382 Max Sun. 632-9761 Tess Sat.

SAN JUAN

G'hills 1BR P17-20T; 2BR P25T; 3BR P35T F/UF Call 723-2391

FOR LEASE

400m² of ofc/warehouse San Ignacio 890-0151/531-8131

75; 110-135sqm OFC SPACE Bel-air 890-0151/531-8131

EVACOM, PQUE 600SQM FAIRVIEW LOT, REGALADO ST., 400SQM 2429012-13

BEDSPACE

Wrkg Ladys Mand 5310561

WANTED TO BUY

Buying Rolex Watch
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LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

BUSINESS RENTAL

3-STY SHAW-KPTOLYO VERY NICE LOC ONLY P80TH BIG PARKING 6716870/5326334

90sqm New Ofc Condo Ort. Ctr. Reduced Rate 09178986655•9284431

Centerpoint Ofc Ortigas Ctr 140m²@200 412-1825

•Medical Plaza 40m²-75m²
•Jollibee Plz ofc 80-150m²
•Prestige Twr 60-1200m²
412-1825•0917-7914366

OFC/COMML SOLO MRT EDSA V-NICE GR CHEAP 6716870

STORE WID ROLL UP DOOR 524 EDSA CALOOCAN 3610652

Tutuban Divisoria 132 sqm 3 Storey Tel 2429012-13

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

97 Civic LXI 345T 6313649

ISUZU

FUEGO 98 350T 3741373

KIA

PREGIO '98 M/T 330T 1st Owner 4330223 • 9257622

MERCEDES

MB100 1998 365T 1stOwner Call 925-7622 • 433-0568

MITSUBISHI

'76 Mdl L-Type Lancer Saturn Engine Txt 0917-4602171

'82 LCR GSR BxTpe 15Mags Snd Setup 95T Fld 713-2830

EL94 A1 FlyLded CD Changer Fresh 190 Neg •2815233•

Lancer GLX'01 P500T 5434469

NISSAN

'91 Sentra A1 150T 645-7693

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

BNEW PREGIO L300 8254058

Van Coaster Bus 913-91-23

HONDA MB100 8908668

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

StarexMB100HIAce9483535

MB H-ACE L3 URVAN 825-7135

MB100/Hi-Ace Call 641-1859

P800/L3 9136710/4333682

SELF-DRIVE
New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L300 CARS 7268388

Udrive CARS VANS 8006595

VAN 4280012/09192147778

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

Buying Used Car 3758850

We Buy Cars Spot Cash
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CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

Car Sangla•Spot Cash!
LOWEST % 740-5692/6192

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

FARM TRACTOR 2day sale! Low Price Kubota*Iseki T-361-0215•367-2002

PETS

Basset Hound w/PCCI & Vac. Champline. 3mo. 10-12T 0917-8350938 Very Cute

Dog Trainer 09192050952

SPORTING GOODS

B.Table B'new w/accessories •8014494/8020566•

Cannondale Freeride Mt. BIKE Bargain Sale, almost Brand New Php 48,000.00 (Neg.) Call 724-4883 or Txt 0919-4776735

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T Complete Acc's. 8618714/16 8613123 / 8613125

New Billiard P18.5T P22T P25T Ok C.Card 781-9453

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B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

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8390004

MISCELLANEOUS

ID strap LogoPin 656-8605

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

•10 URGENT NEEDED OFC• PERSONNEL 9134470 Helen

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED DAVAO COOPERATIVE BANK, INC.

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Davao Cooperative Bank, Inc. (DCBI) on October 2, 2001.

Depositors are advised to proceed to designated payoff sites on dates indicated in the schedule (please refer to table below), to file their claims for insured deposits. Claim forms will be issued free of charge. PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Also, PDIC has designated Land Bank of Philippines (LBP) as its paying agent for the four (4) offices/branches of DCBI namely, Butuan, Mandaue, Cagayan de Oro and General Santos. Numbers of approved claims that have been turned over by PDIC representatives to LBP for the said branches shall be posted at the payoff sites. Depositors are therefore requested to refer to these numbers before proceeding to LBP servicing branch for payment of claims.

Servicing Dates	*Payoff Site*	*DCBI Office/ Branch*	*LBP Servicing Branch*
October 2 to October 29, 2001	Davao Cooperative Bank-Head Office DCB Building, Rizal St. Tagum City Davao del Norte	Tagum (H.O.) and Moneyshop	-
October 2 to October 19, 2001	Davao Cooperative Bank-Trento DCB Bldg., Poblacion Trento Agusan del Sur	Trento	-
October 2 to October 9, 2001	Davao Cooperative Bank-Butuan Corram Bldg., P. Burgos St. Butuan City Agusan del Norte	Butuan	LBP-Butuan
	Davao Cooperative Bank-Mandaue Door # 6, O & M Bldg./Center A. del Rosario Ave., Mandaue City	Mandaue	LBP-Mandaue
October 9 to October 19, 2001	South Cotabato Cooperative Bank, Inc. Koronadal City South Cotabato	Tacurong	-
	Davao Cooperative Bank-Cagayan de Oro Camp Vicente Roa St. Cagayan de Oro	Cagayan de Oro	LBP-Cagayan De Oro (Velez)
October 9 to October 30, 2001	Davao Cooperative Bank-Babak DCB Bldg. 4, Miranda, Babak Island Garden City of Samal	Babak	-
October 9 to Nov. 5, 2001	Davao Cooperative Bank-Sto. Tomas DCB Bldg. 2, Bouganvilla St. Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte	Sto. Tomas	-
October 22 to November 9, 2001	Davao Cooperative Bank-Monkayo DCB Bldg. 3, Salazar St., Poblacion Monkayo, Davao del Norte	Monkayo	-
October 22 to November 16, 2001	Davao Cooperative Bank-Gen. Santos Cabaloan Bldg., Magsaysay Ave. General Santos City	General Santos	LBP General Santos (Pioneer)
	Davao Cooperative Bank-Kapalong DCB Bldg. 6, Magsaysay St., Kapalong, Davao del Norte	Kapalong	-

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally or thru mail at the PDIC located at 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:

a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook, Certificate of Time Deposit, and/or latest bank statement and unused check/s; and
b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature

Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Davao Cooperative Bank, Inc. is on **January 7, 2003**. After **January 7, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – Sept. 29 & Oct. 1, 2001)

FOR SALE
TRANSIT MIXERS, CONCRETE PUMPS, GENSETS, TOWER & MOBILE CRANES, CONCRETE BATCHING PLANT (wet & dry)
Call Jho Tel # 723-8408

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ASST. GOLF COURSE SUPT. Graduate in Agricultural course; A minimum two years experience as Foreman or in higher level. Apply immediately with Resumø and recent 2 x 2 photo at the H R Dept. of **"The Country Club Inc."** in Terelay, Canlubang, Laguna or call (049)549-1598 look for Marie

BEAUTICIAN Good Opportunity Class A Salon, Las Pinas City 806-4949/800-1538

CARE GIVER T5280722

Direct Hire Ofc Staff 9134470 Start ASAP Jelly

Needs TRAINOR
Bus.-realted course. Pref. 2 yrs exp. in real-estate & direct selling. Will lecture. Assign Cabanatuan City. Call/come on Oct 1, 01 for interview Valero Plaza G-12 • 815-4427

OFC STAFF 9134470 Carl

Ofs. Personnel Urgent Call /Txt Edgar 0919-8910034

Student Computer Sales Technician 0917-8398638

•URGENT! 18 OFC STAFF Start ASAP!9134470 HAZEL

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
TEACHERS
w/pleasing personality
likes to work w/people
CALL Chai Jack 687-0730

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

15th Corrugated Boards & RSC Box Cost Estimating
Workshop
Tuesday Oct. 9, 2001
Time: 8:00-11:30 A.M. at
MANDARIN HOTEL
MAKATI CITY
Pls. Call or Fax, Email
Tel. 899-4950 • 899-2956
varpack@info.com.ph

-H-U-R-R-Y-! •for bidding• 15-unit trucks 2 b recon CALL:6992032/0492476932

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

I.T. OFFICE EQUIPMENT:
PCs, DESKS, CABINTES
& CHAIRS
687-2014 TO 17 REBY

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

CASH FLOW NOW!
8-12T/mo. + Travel 750-8078

Coffee Business for Sale! You can start in a week! Complete with machines and training 350T •CP:James 0917-9710295•

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PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW 4 Tiange Bazar3738821

RTW P28 up/caps 727-4934

SAVE WISELY BE HAPPIER Earn 60% Interest a year 0917-8349338 (Dave)

WEEKLY 4,800 CASH! Catch the wave today! 800-4226

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased Porfirio Q. Cabalu Jr. has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs on 27 Sept 2001 as per Doc 476, Book 97, Page XXI Series of 2001 of Notary Public Benjamin B. Mala of Makati City. (PDI-10/1, 8, & 15 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that common Class "B" Stock Dividend Cert. No. 11324 issued by SM Development Corp. for 2887 shares under the name of LEONARDO S. CANSANA is missing. If no contest received. New Cert. will be issued (9/17, 24, & 10/1)

U.S.A. *EMPLOYMENT*

HCP Services INC
since 1984

Health Care Placement Services, Inc. (HCPS) of NEW YORK, U.S.A.

R.N.'s for the United States

CGFNS PASSERS (M/F)

R.N.'S WITH EXCELLENT SCHOLASTIC RECORDS AND HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE ARE MOST WELCOME TO APPLY

October 4TH thru 8TH Final Interview

(Manila Midtown Hotel - Sta. Mesa Function Room)
- Corner Pedro Gil & Adriatico Sts., Manila, beside Robinsons Place -

NCLEX will be taken in the U.S.A. at their convenience while working and after the U.S. review program.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

(USD 3,900 TO 4,500)

WILL BE PROVIDED TO SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES TO COVER INS FEE, TOEFL/TWE/TSE & AIRFARE, ETC. PLUS FREE HOUSING FOR SIX (6) MONTHS IN THE U.S.A.

Ms. Joan Madden founded **Health Care Placement Services, Inc.** in 1984. Prior to this date, she was the Director of Nursing at Bellevue Hospital Center during which time she received her Advanced, Certified Nursing Administration from the American Nurses Association.

Her range of clinical and teaching experience, combined with her extensive administrative experience, has prepared her well for the demands of recruiting.

Joan has worked closely with nurses from all over the world; She understands your dedication as nurses, your concern for your families, and your desire to succeed in the U.S.A.

Her knowledge of the hospitals and nursing homes will help you to get started at these facilities. She knows how the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service works, and she keeps up with the latest changes in the laws and regulations.

More importantly, Joan and her staff at Health Care Placement Services, Inc. have the reputation for caring about each one of the nurses who travel from the Philippines to the U.S.A.

Ms. Joan Madden together with representatives from the following hospitals will select and provide direct employment:

- * WESTCHESTER COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER (NEW YORK)
- * BENEDICTINE HOSPITAL (NEW YORK)
- * ST. ELIZABETH MEDICAL CENTER (CHICAGO)
- * ST. BERNARD HOSPITAL (CHICAGO)
- * CONCOURSE NURSING HOMES (NEW YORK)
- * OKLAHOMA NURSING HOMES (OKLAHOMA)

HCP has placed more than 2,000 Filipino RNs in over 70 facilities in the U.S.A. since 1984. HCP has been an outstanding principal of IPAMS since 1986.

To take advantage of this opportunity. Candidates must personally apply soonest by submitting comprehensive resume, school records (diploma, transcript of records), board rating, training certificates, employment credentials, plus two (2) passport photographs to:

IPAMS
since 1972
U.S. Immigration consultancy

INDUSTRIAL PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.
1455 Leon Guinto Sr. St. 1004
Malate, Metro Manila, Philippines
E-mail: ipams_us@mydestiny.net

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: WWW.IPAMS.COM.PH
NO PLACEMENT FEE INVOLVED IN THE PHILS. AND U.S.A.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Mail or fax resumé with latest 2x2 photo, and transcript of records at:

LEIGHTON CONTRACTORS (PHILS.) INC.
9th Floor, Insular Life Bldg., 6781 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Fax No. 8110158

- **1 Site Superintendent**
- **1 Quantity Surveyor**
- **1 Chief Surveyor**
- **1 Site Manager**
- **1 Services Quantity Surveyor**
- **1 Senior Project Engineer**
- **1 Structural Steel & Cladding Engineer**
- **1 Foreman Concrete Worker**

Qualifications:
Graduate of Engineering or equivalent membership in an international association of Engineers; Experience gained from foreign firm in an international setting.

UniverCity Convenience Flats

Higher Living for Higher Learning
115-123 Concepcion Aguila St. Quiapo, Manila

NO RESERVATION
NO DOWNPAYMENT
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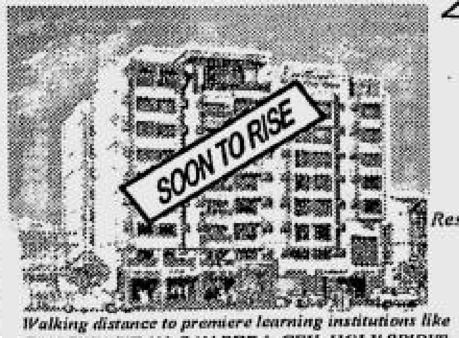

Walking distance to premiere learning institutions like SAN SEBASTIAN, SAN BEDA, CEU, HOLY SPIRIT and LA CONSOLACION

Residents are welcome by the lobby's first class ambience.

Suggested lay-out *Bare unit*

Model unit Ready for Viewing

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*Brokers are welcome for accreditation

P Permanent Homes, Inc
172 Pasig Blvd., Pasig City
Tels 6714486 * 671 4165
671 4878

Luxurious Three Bedroom Residences For Rent at Fort Bonifacio.

THE ESSENSA EAST FORBES

290 sq.m. 3BR unit w/ Maid's Room
Furnished Gourmet & Service Kitchen
Window Treatment & Light Fixtures
Housekeeping Services
Car Wash Services
Fully Furnished Units Also Available

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Exclusive Sales and Marketing Manager:
CENTURY PROPERTIES, INC.

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Republika ng Pilipinas

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Lungsod ng Quezon

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NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CENTER
E. DE LOS SANTOS AVENUE
QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

TELEPHONE NOS.: 97-60-71 to 78
CABLE NIAPHIL
TELEX 42802 NIA PM

INVITATION FOR AUCTION SALE OF UNSERVICEABLE EQUIPMENT

(AS IS, WHERE IS)

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) invites all interested bidders to participate in the auction sale of various unserviceable heavy equipment like bulldozers, cranes, graders, loaders, excavators, etc. of various make and model; transport equipment like dump trucks, stake trucks, pick-ups, jeeps, motorcycles, etc. of various make and model; support equipment like concrete mixers, generators, centrifugal water pumps, welding machines, etc. of various make and model; and office equipment located at the venues stated below:

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION	QTY. (UNITS)	TOTAL APPRAISED VALUE	VENUE	TEL. NO.	FAX NO.	DATE & TIME OF AUCTION
1	Various Heavy, Transport, Support and Office Equipment	2,804	P1,464,601.58	Reg. 1 - Bayaoas, Urdaneta, Pangasinan	(075) 568-2308 (075) 568-4314	(075) 568-2308	Nov. 6, 2001 at 9:00 AM
2	-do-	25	70,320.00	CAR - Wangal, La Trinidad, Benguet	(074) 422-2435	(074) 422-2435	-do-
3	-do-	50	744,255.00	Reg. 2 - Minante, Cauayan City, Isabela	(078) 652-2033	(078) 652-0284	-do-
4	-do-	12	478,665.00	MRIIS - Minante, Cauayan, Isabela	(078) 652-0288 (078) 652-0289	(078) 652-2150	-do-
5	-do-	192	3,423,064.90	Reg. 3 - Tambubong, San Rafael, Bulacan	(044) 766-2467 (044) 766-3887	(044) 766-3888	-do-
6	-do-	7	181,448.00	UPRIIS - Cabanatuan City	(044) 463-1350	(044) 463-1350	-do-
7	-do-	97	1,864,015.17	Reg. 4 - Pila, Laguna	(049) 559-0726	(049) 559-0726	-do-
8	-do-	83	537,487.25	Reg. 5 - Panganiban Drive, Naga City	(054) 473-8967	(054) 473-2882	-do-
9	-do-	68	681,430.28	Reg. 6 - Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City	(033) 336-3863	(033) 337-6597	Nov. 8, 2001 at 9:00 AM
10	-do-	22	102,814.60	Reg. 7&8 - Marasbaras, Tacloban City	(053) 323-2408	(053) 323-3072	-do-
11	-do-	81	1,346,470.10	Reg. 9 - Zamboanga City	(062) 991-1081	(062) 991-9961	Nov. 13, 2001 at 9:00 AM
12	-do-	61	3,358,058.24	Reg. 10 - Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City	(088) 858-4167	(088) 858-4167	-do-
13	-do-	218	7,301,429.66	Reg. 11 - Davao City	(082) 227-3852	(082) 224-0717	-do-
14	-do-	94	808,541.02	Reg. 12 - Midsayap, North Cotabato	(064) 229-8562 (064) 201-3160	(064) 201-3179	-do-
15	-do-	355	15,179,000.32	Reg. 13 - Butuan City	(085) 342-1436	(085) 342-1408	-do-

Detailed informations on equipment type, make, model and corresponding appraised value may be obtained either at the Property Division, PPRD, NIA-C.O., Quezon City, Tel. No. 926-2066 or 929-6071 loc. 138 or at the different bidding venues mentioned above. Actual sites and condition may be confirmed upon conduct of site inspection from **October 15 to 26, 2001**. Bid documents may be secured from the same field offices from **October 15 to 26, 2001**. Pre-bidding conference will be on **October 30, 2001** at the aforementioned venues.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities found therein and to accept/reject such proposals that may be advantageous to NIA's interest.

(Sgd.) **JESUS EMMANUEL M. PARAS**
Administrator

(PDI - Oct. 1 & 5, 2001)

WE ARE BUYING UNUSED ESCALATOR IN STOCK

PLEASE CALL UP MRS. ROQUE
TEL. NOS. 809-2309, 809-2310
OR FAX YOUR QUOTATION TO 809-4419

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES

INVITATION TO BID

DUTY FREE PHILIPPINES, a division of the Philippine Tourism Authority is inviting interested buyers to bid for the sale of the following unserviceable properties situated at **FTI Warehouse, FTI Compound, CRB Road, Taguig, Metro Manila on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS BASIS."**

One (1) lot Computer and Peripherals
One (1) lot Office/Store Furnitures, Fixtures and Equipment

All interested parties may secure Pre-qualification form for a non-refundable fee of **Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00)** from **October 1 to 4, 2001** from the **Purchasing Department**, Duty Free Philippines, Fiesta Mall, Ninoy Aquino Avenue, Parañaque City.

Submission of duly accomplished pre-qualification forms will be until October 10, 2001 at 5:00 p.m. A pre-bidding conference and site inspection for all qualified contractors will be announced later.

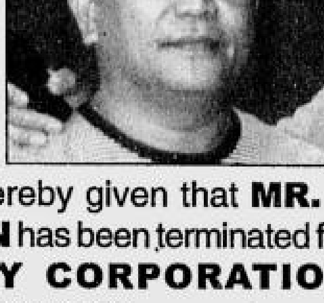
Bidders will be required to post a bid bond equivalent to **ten percent (10%)** of the total contract price in the form of **Cash, Manager's Check** or **Cashier's Check.**

Duty Free Philippines reserves the right to confiscate the bid bond should the winning bidder refused to accept his award. Further, DFP reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, waive any defect contained therein and accept an offer most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) **JOEL R. PEREZ**
CHAIRMAN
Disposal Committee

(PDI – Sept. 29, 30 & Oct. 1, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Notice is hereby given that **MR. JAMES S. RELACION** has been terminated for cause from **GROVERY CORPORATION** effective **September 22, 2001.**

Any transaction made through him since said date will not be honored by the Company.

(PDI - Oct. 1, 2001)

AUCTION SALE

By Order of Nestle Philippines, Inc.

2-DAY AUCTION SALE

Of excellent used processing and factory equipment

4 MW DIESEL GENERATING SET; STEAM BOILERS; COFFEE PRODUCTION MACHINERY; MILK PRODUCTION MACHINERY; CAN MANUFACTURING EQUIPMENT; MACHINE TOOLS & PLANT SERVICES

IN OVER 2000 LOTS INCLUDING:-

COFFEE PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT - Green Coffee Cleaning & Drying incl.: - BUHLER Destoner, Grader, Dust Separator; Magnetic Separator, Coffee Dryer; Roasting Equipment incl. Rotary Distributor; PROBAT WERKE Roaster; Stainless Steel Receiving Hoppers; Stainless Steel Receiving Silos; Stainless Steel Traveling Hoppers; Extraction Equipment incl. Stainless Steel Condensers, Flash Tanks, 316 Chemical Tanks; JAGGI AG BERN Tubular Heaters; A MEILI Stainless Steel Stripping Columns, Warm Condensers, Steel Aroma Condensers; MELIBEX Triple Effect Evaporator; APV Falling Film Evaporators; APV Separators; KORTING Steam Ejector Vessels; Coffee Ergon Equipment incl. MEIDINGER 7000m3/hr Centrifugal Blower
COFFEE GROUNDS DRYER - VERNON 27 Rotary Dryer 6000kg/hr Raw Ground at 87% MC; 1350 kg/hr Dry Ground at 50.5MC w/ Solid Fuel Heater & WEISHAUPT Oil Burner
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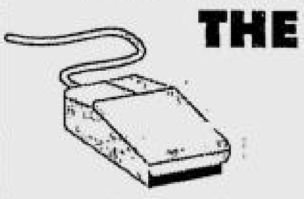

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On the Occasion of the
Sixth Death Anniversary of

DON EUGENIO S. BALTAO

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered tomorrow,
02 October 2001 at the following churches:

MOUNT CARMEL SHRINE - New Manila, Quezon City .... 7:00 AM & 6 PM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH - Lantana St., Cubao, Quezon City .... 6:00 AM & 6 PM
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE - Greenhills, Mandaluyong City .... 6:15 AM & 6:15 PM
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH CHURCH - Greenhills, San Juan .... 6:00 AM & 6 PM
OUR LADY OF THE AIRWAYS CHAPEL - Ninoy Aquino Ave., Parañaque .... 6:00 AM & 6 PM
MONASTERIO DE SANTA CLARA - Katipunan Road, Quezon City .... 6:00 AM
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO - Forbes Park, Makati City .... 7:30 AM & 12:15 Noon
ST. NICOLAS DE TOLENTINE - Cabanatuan City .... 6:00 AM
E.S. BALTAO HALL, Nueva Ecija Doctors Hospital
Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City .... 9:00 AM
ST. JAMES PARISH CHURCH - Subic, Zambales .... 6:00 AM
ST. FERDINAND CATHEDRAL - Lucena City .... 6:00 AM
PINES CITY COLLEGES STUDENT CENTER - Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City .... 1:30 PM
BAGUIO CATHEDRAL Immaculate Heart of Mary .... 7:00 AM
SACRED HEART COMMUNITY CHAPEL - Baguio City .... 12:15 PM
ST. VINCENT PARISH CHURCH - Baguio City .... 6:00 AM
DON BOSCO CHURCH - Baguio City .... 6:00 AM
CHAPEL OF THE SACRED HEART - Pines City Doctors Hospital
Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City .... 9:00 AM
ADORATION CONVENT CHAPEL - Baguio City .... 6:30 AM
CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF PEACE AND GOOD VOYAGE - Antipolo City .... 6:00 AM & 6 PM

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life and I shall live
in the house of the Lord forever."
Psalm 23:6

CESAR SANTARROMANA DE SEQUERA

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on the 29th of September 2001 at the age of 69.

His loving wife **Rosario**; children **Gil & Maricel, Garret & Marirose, Giovanni, Vincenzo & Marina, Rosa**; brother **Joaquin**; sisters **Ramona & Lourdes**; grandchildren **Carlo, Anton, Alex & Julia**; **Gino**; **Justin, Mark & Joshua** request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul at the St. Alphonsus Liguori Parish Center beside Magallanes Church in Makati.

Interment will be announced later.

Lovingly remembering his
10th Death Anniversary

Major Alfonso G. Salavante

June 25, 1918 - October 1, 1991

In our hearts, you live forever.

Commemorative Masses will be said in the following churches:

Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City .... 6:00 AM
St. Isidore Parish Church, Nabas, Aklan .... 6:00 AM
San Isidro de Labrador Parish, Pulilan, Bulacan .... 6:00 AM
San Sebastian Cathedral, Bacolod City .... 7:00 AM
Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Joseph,
Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City .... 7:00 AM
St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang,
Muntinlupa City .... 7:20 AM
St. Joseph Parish, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Manila .... 7:30 AM
Shrine of Our Lady of Peace, Edsa, Quezon City .... 12:00 NN
Ateneo de Manila University Chapel,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City .... 12:20 NN
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City .... 6:15 PM
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish,
BF Homes, Parañaque City .... 7:00 PM

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

2 Corinthians 4:14

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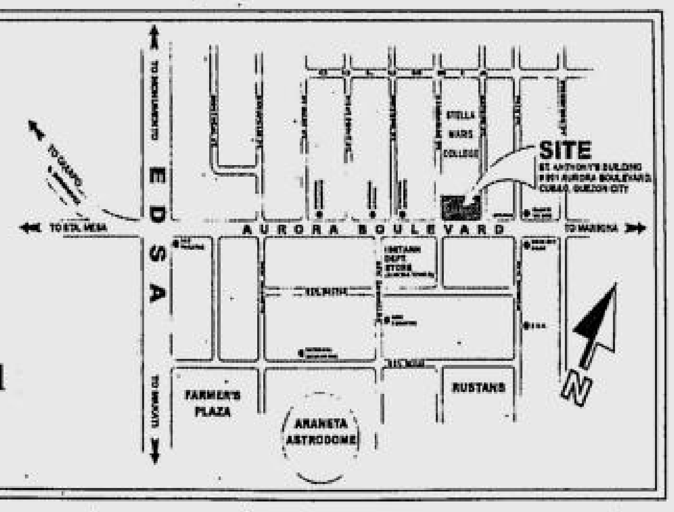

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INVITATION TO BID

Bids are hereby invited from LWUA-accredited manufacturers/suppliers/distributors/dealers for the supply and delivery of various pipes, fittings, electro-mechanical equipment (including installation) and other water supply materials for various LWUA-assisted projects.

Accredited firms will be notified in writing of the schedule of bidding for the fourth quarter of year 2001. Bid documents, including specifications for each bidding, will be available two (2) weeks before the scheduled bid opening at the BAC Secretariat, Ground Floor, LWUA Building, Katipunan Road Balara, Diliman, Quezon City.

(Sgd.) **EDWIN T. RUIZ**
Chairman, BAC 2

(PDI--Oct. 1 & 2, 2001)

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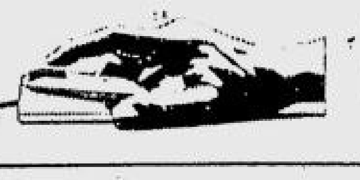

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

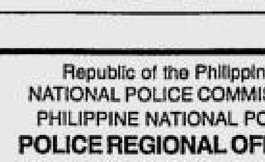
The Philippine National Police (PNP) invites authorized distributors/dealers to participate for bidding of the Assorted Clothing Supplies for the use of 217 PNP PRO3 Recruits.

The schedule of pre-qualification bid conference and evaluation will be on **October 5, 2001** at exactly 9:00 a.m. at PRO3 Conference Room, Camp Olivas, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

PNP PRO3 reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any formality of the bids received.

(Sgd.) **EDGARDO M. DOROMAL**
Police Senior Superintendent, DSC
Deputy Regional Director for Operations/
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Sept. 30, Oct. 1 & 2, 2001)



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Living life to the max

PIA Guanio wakes up at 3:30 a.m., tries to be at her office before 4:30 a.m., gets an average of 4 to 5 hours of sleep every day, responds effectively to the challenges of her demanding career as well as find time for friends and other interests. How does she get away looking fresh, beautiful and vivacious?

"That has always been part of my lifestyle. I always set aside time for exercise because for your mental, physical and emotional sanity, you have to exercise no matter how busy you are. *Sayang* because most of us Pinoys don't feel that's a very important aspect of our lives, but in fact, it is. It makes you more energetic because it gets your blood flowing, you feel better about yourself, and you're a lot more happy and confident."

Twice a week, Pia goes straight to Makati from her ''Alas Singko y Medya'' show for her one-on-one training with Vanessa Garcia who, like her, is an Alaska milk endorser. "I'm so proud of the fact that she's training me. She's the only certified power-boxing instructor in the country and I'm not paying her. She made a whole routine just for me, teaching me the most advanced workout she learned in New York, and I feel so privileged – I think I'm the only person she's doing this for, and she's not just any weight trainer."

Pia also plays squash and basketball. She used to jog everyday, targeting about ten rounds at the Renaissance's world-class track and field, before she started working out with Vanessa.

"I can't diet" she says, that all her friends know that she eats a lot, which is also the reason for her exercises. She claims that she eats anything except pork, which she avoids not for any health reason but because she finds pigs filthy. She loves seafoods. "But I try not to do anything in excess. Everything becomes a hassle when it's done in excess, and tiresome also."

"I drink (milk) with my cereal – more like that. I had never been able to drink milk from a glass until now, unless I was in the States because I thought milk in the States tastes better than milk here. Then, I got to try Alaska and realized that it tastes just as good as milk in the United States, even my boyfriend think so. So, I now have a bigger demand for milk, which is really good for your body."

Pia says that what she has discovered about herself is that she can only be truly happy and confident in doing that she feels she is good at. She may do some other things on the side, but remains focused on her core competency. "It I attempted to do something that's not really my core competency, I'm just going to be lousy at it or embarrassing myself." Even if she could pull off, Pia would rather reserve most of her concentration and energy on what she is inherently good at and could be passionate about. In her case, that's news and public service – either off-cam as a researcher, writer or producer or on-cam as an anchorperson and host.

Do what you want to do and have a lot of fun is Pia's advice. "Most people would think that it couldn't be fun to wake up at 3:30 everyday. Nobody could have conceived that anybody could stay in a job that requires you to wake up before 5, report to a hangar at 6, stay in the helicopter for three hours, five days a week for a whole year. But I was able to do it because I was having fun. You only have one life to live so make the most of it. Besides, when you start your day that early, you'd feel that you've already accomplished so much during the rest of your day."

IN POST-BUBBLE ERA

Japan's finance industry forced to account

TOKYO—The financial climate for Japan's embattled banks and life assurers could be about to get even worse with the onset of international accounting methods for their vast stockholdings.

The introduction from Sunday of "mark-to-market" accounting could not come at a worse time as the Tokyo Stock Exchange plumbs depths not seen in nearly two decades.

The new regulation, part of long-awaited financial reforms imposed by the government, means Japanese companies must account for their shareholdings at current market value instead of the original purchase price.

By bringing Japanese companies into line with their Western competitors, the measure has been welcomed by economists who see it as one of several reforms Japan must introduce to recover its competitiveness.

But mark-to-market accounting spells short-term trouble for Japanese financial institutions, whose enormous shareholdings have slumped in value since the economic "bubble" burst in the early 1990s.

Masaaki Kanno, an economist at JP Morgan, said the banks were sitting on latent losses once the stock market's Nikkei-225 average fell below 12,000 points and the broader Topix benchmark moved under 1,200.

The Nikkei closed Friday at 9,774.68 points—its lowest level in 18 years—and the Topix at 1,023.

"At these levels, unrealized losses for the banks can be evaluated roughly at 5 trillion yen ($41.7 billion) to maybe 6 trillion," said Barclays Capital credit research analyst Jason Rogers.

The banks' "tier one" ratio of capital to assets, a crucial measure of financial health, would hence fall to just over 5 percent from 6.2 percent on average at the end of March, he said.

International regulations decree that the minimum capital adequacy ratio for a bank operating internationally must be 8 percent.

"It could impact their earnings by tens of billion of yen because they will have to take appraisal losses for their hidden losses if they fall by more than 50 percent below the book value," Rogers added.

This should not cause a systemic failure among Japanese banks, but it would oblige them to dip further into their weak reserves and prevent them from issuing semi-annual dividends, both Kanno and Rogers said.

The dividend problem is key. The top banks received billions of dollars in taxpayers' money from 1998 under a government scheme to shore up their dwindling capital and ensure their survival.

As part of the emergency bail-out measures ending at the end of the current fiscal year next March, the banks were required to pay out dividends or face nationalization by the state.

"Even if the banking problem does not become critical at this half-year end, it will quite likely be a real problem by the March fiscal year-end, when the escape clauses no longer apply," said Kanno.

The mark-to-market stipulations will show up for the first time in the April-September accounting period, with financial results for the fiscal year's first half due to be released from October.

The big Japanese banks, crippled by bad debts arising from the past decade's economic depression, appear to have bought themselves time with a raft of mergers and alliances.

The insurance industry is in even direr straits, with several high-profile failures taking their toll particularly on the life assurers, which rely on stock investments to generate earnings.

Naoto Odagiri, a financial sector analyst at BNP Paribas, ruled out any further life assurance collapses in the near term.

"The weak and smaller ones are already gone. Some are still quite weak but they are big, with millions of clients. I guess the government will try its best to help," said Odagiri. *AFP*

Japan's intervention costs $26B

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan sold a total of 3.1 trillion yen ($26 billion) in a series of dollar-buying interventions for the past two weeks in a bid to cap recent yen gains, Kyodo News agency said on Saturday.

The total was the largest round of such interventions on record, the Japanese news agency said.

The previous record for a round of the Japanese central bank's yen-selling intervention was 3 trillion yen in the April-June period of 1999, Kyodo said.

The central bank first intervened in the Tokyo market on Sept. 17 after the dollar fell to the 116-yen level. It has since continued its dollar-supporting efforts on fears that the yen may rise further against the dollar following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

The US currency rallied to a high of 119.78 yen in Tokyo on Friday after the Bank of Japan (BOJ) sold yen. Earlier, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and the European Central Bank had sold yen on behalf of the BOJ in US and European trading hours.

Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa said after the latest intervention that it was not appropriate for the dollar to trade around the 116-yen level "given the poor economic conditions and deflationary pressure on prices" in Japan. *AFP*

Moscow seen getting free-market status

MOSCOW—US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said Saturday, Washington would be in favor of granting Russia market economy country status, the RIA Novosti news agency reported.

Zoellick made the comment after meeting Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov on the last day of his visit devoted to discussing Moscow's bid to join the World Trade Organization.

Zoellick was quoted by RIA Novosti as saying Russia had made great progress in reforming its economy.

On Friday, Zoellick said the United States wanted Russia to join the WTO "as soon as we can" but stressed, after meeting Russian minister for economic development German Gref, its legislation must conform with that of the Geneva-based world trade watchdog.

He also said: "We agreed that we'll try to target the completion of a draft working report of Russia accession to the WTO by early next year." *AFP*

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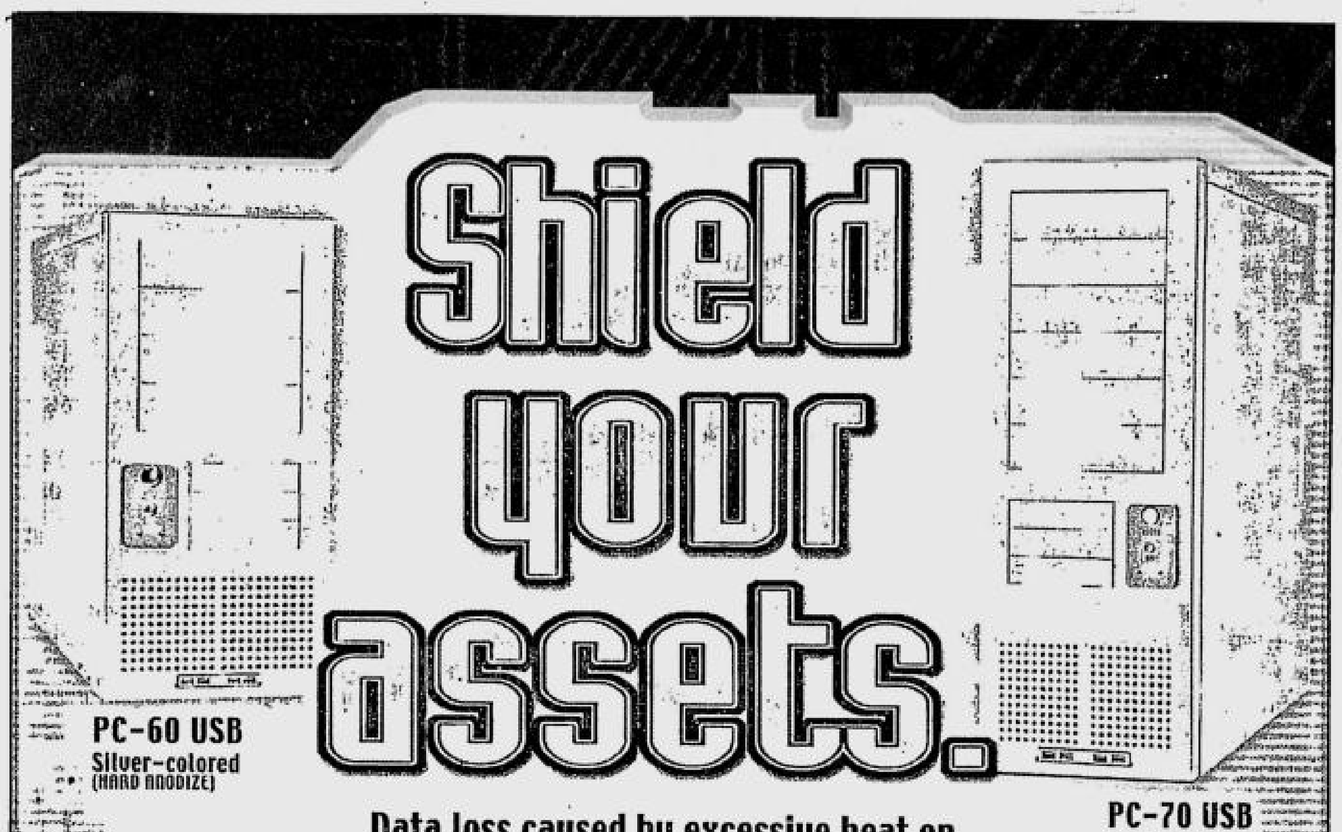

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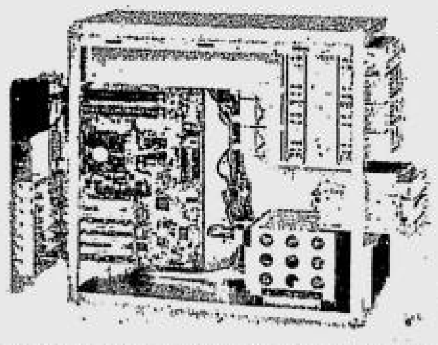

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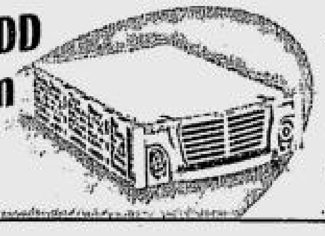

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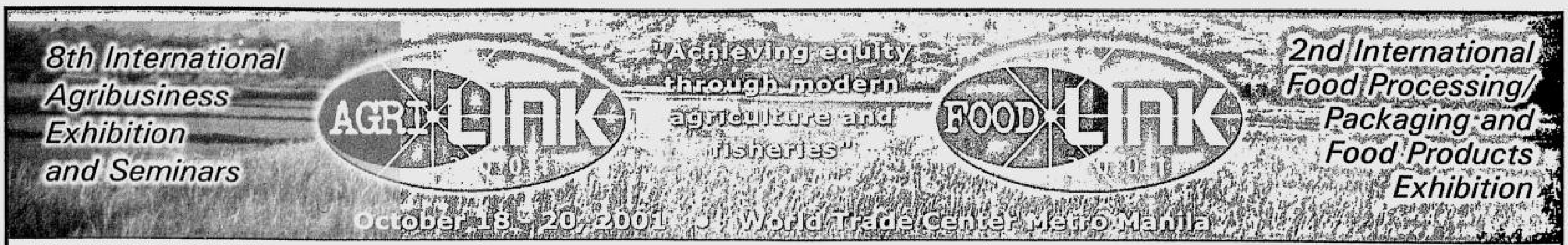
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TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS:

DATE/TIME	MEETING ROOM 5
October 18, 2001	
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Developments in Philippine Aquaculture/ Recent Advances in Shrimp Farming Systems *by: SEAFDEC-AQD*
3:15 - 5:15 pm	Artificial Insemination in Practice *by: Jolda Farm Supply Corp.*
October 19, 2001	
10:15 am - 12:15pm	How to Make AI Profitable *by: Schippers Phils./The Infarmco Group*
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Management of Yield Type Broiler *by: Hybro B.V.*
3:15 - 5:15 pm	Recent Advances and Development in Swine Nutrition *by: San Miguel Foods, Inc.*

DATE/TIME	MEETING ROOM 5
October 20, 2001	
10:15 am - 12:15pm	Feed and Food Safety of Biotech Products *by: Monsanto Philippines, Inc.*
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Flower Shop Management *by: Flower Club Phils.*
3:15 - 5:15 pm	Value Added Products from Tilapia *by: Technology and Livelihood Resource Center*

DATE/TIME	MEETING ROOM 2/3
October 18, 2001	
3:15 - 5:15 pm	Current Status and Future of Swine Reproduction/Food Ingredients for Swine Diets-Nutrition Values/Problems Associated with Ingredient Storage and Handling *by: University of Illinois/Illinois Department of Agriculture/USLGE Swine Trade Mission*
October 19, 2001	
10:15 am - 12:15pm	Dry Pea for Feed and Food Applications *by: US Dry Pea and Lentil Council*
	Pre-fabricated Walls from Coir (Coconut Husk for Housing Construction) *by: Philippine Coconut Authority*

DATE/TIME	MEETING ROOM 2/3
3:15 - 5:15 pm	Feeding the Reproductive Herd Under Tropical Conditions/Gilt Management: Factors Influencing Attainment of Puberty and Longevity *by: University of Illinois/ Illinois Department of Agriculture/USLGE Swine Trade Mission*
October 20, 2001	
10:15 am - 12:15pm	Greater Market Access Through New Technologies: The Israel Experience *by: The Embassy of Israel - Manila*
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Diversified Species for Fresh Water Aquaculture *by: Mercado Farms*
3:15 - 5:15 pm	Free Range Chicken Growing *by: OPTA*

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS:

DATE/TIME	TOPIC
October 18, 2001	
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Calamansi Processing *by: Technology & Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC)*
3:00 - 5:00 pm	Culinary Herbs *by: OPTA*
October 19, 2001	
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Homemade Yogurt *by: Technology & Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC)*
October 20, 2001	
1:00 - 3:00 pm	Deli Fresh *by: OPTA*

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People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
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NIIT-Microsoft extend relationship to Asia-Pacific

TAKING their decade old association forward, NIIT Limited, the global IT solutions provider and Microsoft Philippines have signed an MOU to support the efforts of the Philippines in transforming itself into a knowledge-based economy. Through this agreement, NIIT becomes the premier education and training partner of Microsoft in the Philippines.

The MOU that will see the two companies come together once again in a corroborative effort to upgrade the IT skills of professionals, was designed by B.G. Purushotham, vice president (education and training), NIIT and Richard Francis, managing director, Microsoft Philippines.

"This is the first premier education and training program outside of India that NIIT has with Microsoft. We have been Microsoft's premier training partner in India since 1996 and are happy to carry this relationship forward with Microsoft to other locations outside India," said Purushotham.

"Through this partnership we will further build on the decade-long association with Microsoft to contribute significantly to IT skills development in the Philippines, as we have in other countries in the Asia Pacific," added Purushotham.

From Jay Silayan, president of Mind Stream Inc., Philippine partner of NIIT – "We are very excited about this relationship and believe that together we can develop many more Filipinos with globally and industry-relevant skills in IT. We want to mirror the success of NIIT and Microsoft in India in developing the large number of skilled IT workers."

Under this MOU, NIIT will introduce world-class IT education and training in the Philippines through its latest industry-relevant curriculum and world-class infrastructure. NIIT Education Centers in the Philippines will offer training in Microsoft Certifications such as SQL Server, Microsoft Office 2000, Visual Basic, C++. NIIT will also offer a range of Microsoft technologies, including Microsoft Certified Professionals (MCP), Microsoft Certified Solution Developer (MCSD) and Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS).

NIIT has grown its partnership with Microsoft from being one of India's earliest users of Microsoft technologies to working with very early versions of virtually every Microsoft product in its software, education and R&D in the '90s.

Acknowledging NIIT's leadership role in training students on the latest technologies, Microsoft recognized NIIT as the "Best Training Partner for 2001". This is the highest award conferred upon a training partner by Microsoft, demonstrating NIIT's commitment to prepare software developers proficient in Microsoft technologies. In 2000, NIIT was adjudged the "Best Windows Training Partner".

NIIT has the oldest and the biggest network of Microsoft Certified Technical Education Centers (CTECs) in India and abroad. Microsoft conferred on NIIT the Excellence in Training-Best Training Partner award in Asia at Asia Fusion '99.

NIIT has developed over 1000 hours of instruction on Microsoft technologies covering various industry-relevant curricula.

NIIT has been offering its benchmarked education and training in the Asia-Pacific region since 1997 through education centers located in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Philippines.

"In the next year, we plan to double the number of overseas education centers to over 200. We believe in the potential of Asia Pacific region as a major education hub and are confident that NIIT will be able to contribute significantly to the absorption of Microsoft technologies in each of these countries with partners like Microsoft," said Purushotham.

NIIT entered the Philippines IT education and training market in March 2001 and now has its education centers in Metro Manila.

NIIT's efforts in localization of its content and delivery methodology distinguishes it from other IT education and training providers in Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand. In each of these countries, NIIT trains in local languages in addition to English. NIIT has emerged as a worldwide market leader because it offers a diversity of curricula catering to a broad range of education and training requirements.

PLDT SWEEPSTXT 135

Telecoms leader PLDT recently held the first monthly draw of its MegaMillion SweepsTXT 135, the first landline text-based promo that gives away over P2 million in cash. With daily, weekly and monthly draws from Aug. 12 to Nov. 15, the promo is open to all residential subscribers who have availed of TXT 135 service. At stake during the grand draw is P1 million for the lucky winner. Shown during the initial draw (from left) are PLDT local services/features product specialist Grace Miranda; PLDT local services/features senior product manager Cecille Mariño; Department of Trade and Industry's Divina Capua, voice company's Ronnel Macalaguim, and Lowe Lintas and Partners' Marissa Balmaceda.

DEMETRIO ORPIADA

LAGUNA LAKE PASIG RIVER STAR FERRY RELAUNCHED

Laguna Lake Pasig River Star Ferry chair/CEO Eduardo R. Manuel presented to MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos a scale model replica of 120 Passenger Ferry boat which will soon service commuters from Escolta to various points up to Laguna Lake. Witnessing the commemorative turnover are (from left) Ernesto Moya and Emmanuel Deles, financial consultants of Star Ferry. Shown are Laguna Lake Pasig River Star Ferry's Manuel, Otto M. Benito, Star Ferry director; Eduardo A. Chanco Jr., Star Ferry consultant; and MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos. The Laguna Lake-Pasig River Star Ferry Service is a private sector's response in support of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's call to help ease vehicular traffic problems in Metro Manila.

Coleman
ULTIMATE ADVENTURE TRIP

ULTIMATE ADVENTURE TRIP WINNER

Rica Llamas wins a trip for two to the Australian Outback in the Coleman Ultimate Adventure Trip promo. Shown are (from left) Aline Lopez, Focus Global brand manager; Rowena Ong, assistant brand manager; Rica Llamas and husband Jojo. Coleman is distributed by Focus Global Inc.

Where Grea Ca ers

VOP SEARCH FOR SINGING STARS OF 2001

Sunrise Entertainment Company, SM Supermalls, Genetic Computer Institute and Octagon Series Educ. Tool, will hold the Voice of the Philippines Search for Singing Stars Solo Inter high school competition for 2001. The search is for all high school students who have the talent and potential to become recording artists. Final elimination rounds started Sept. 21, at SM Fairview, and on Sept. 29 at SM Bacoor, Cavite, Oct. 5 at SM North Edsa and Oct. 20 at SM Southmall, Las Piñas. The grand final will be on Nov. 29, 4 p.m. at SM Trade Hall, SM City, Manila. Big prizes await the winners, including a scholarship for computer courses courtesy of Genetic Computer Institute. Other major sponsors are Tretorn Shoes, Bunny Jeans and Shirts, Flower Collection, UK Derm Pharma, Melody Pops, Country Style Donuts, Ricky Reyes Chain of Salon, Frederick Alba Creation, Pinoy Radio DM 95.5 Official Radio Station and Philippine Daily Inquirer. Screening is still going on. For details call 632-7858 or visit Unit 727 Cityland Shaw Tower, corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Shown are (from left) VOP marketing director Christopher Concepcion; VOP founder and managing director Benjie G. Pe Benito, Genetic Computer Communications director Jim Morris Sarmiento; VOP chair Dennis S. de la Cruz and marketing officer Ed Francisco.

OFWs earn health benefits

THE OVERSEAS Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) said some 15,580 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their dependents are the target beneficiaries for health services at the Mt. Carmel Diocesan General Hospital, a newly-accredited health center under the Owwa-Medicare Program.

According to Owwa administrator Wilhelm D. Soriano, the inclusion of Mt. Carmel Hospital located in the heart of Lucena City will definitely boost the migrant workers and their dependents' health care services since it is accessible to other outlying towns in Quezon such as Candelaria, Tiaong, Sariaya, Tayabas and Lucban. Considered as among the top 20 hospitals in Region IV with regard to the most number of claims for in-patient services, Mt. Carmel is believed to become one of the most frequented hospitals in the said area.

Owwa-Medicare members enjoy various health packages right after they enroll in the program. Out-patient services include check-ups, necessary laboratory examinations and free medicine for common illnesses.

Out-patient clinics have been established both here and abroad to better serve the health needs of the migrant workers. Overseas out-patient clinics were put up in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Jeddah, Rome, Brunei and Taiwan. On the other hand, medical clinics are operational in all regions nationwide.

Soriano said OFWs confined in hospitals overseas may file and seek Medicate claims at the Owwa Medicare Office in Manila, provided they show proof of admission, which may include a diagnostic report from the attending physician and hospital bills, among others.

The Medical Program for OFWs and their dependents offers medical assistance and hospitalization benefits for OFWs and their families. The program covers all OFWs, except those who have voluntarily signed up for membership with the Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PHIC). The program also shoulders part of the expenses for confinement, medicines, laboratory examinations, operating and surgical fees and professional fees.

ISO-certified power firm joins PowerTrends 2001

MORE power and energy firms have confirmed their participation in PowerTrends 2001, the biennial exhibition on new trends in energy and power engineering scheduled for Dec. 5 to 7 at the World Trade Center, Metro Manila.

The latest to sign up is Sensing Technology Corp., an ISO 9002-certified firm manufacturing thermocouples and RTD sensors and operating a calibration laboratory conforming to ISO 17025 standards.

Sensing Technology Corp. will exhibit EExd sensors and a range of calibration equipment that support power establishments making use of new and renewable energy, the focus of the Philippines' energy development plan.

Originally set for Sept. 25 to 27 this year, PowerTrends 2001 has been moved to the new date as part of this year's observance of Energy Week, an annual event sponsored by the Department of Energy. It is organized by Singapore-based Interfama International and Interfama Philippines. interested parties may call Elizabeth Cruz or Robert Sanchez at (632) 818-6828 or e-mail lvrge@netasia.net.

The trade show, to be held concurrently with PowerTech Business Forum 2001, will bring to the country power and energy industry players from other countries who will have the opportunity to interact with their Philippine counterparts.

The Department of Energy, the National Power Corporation, the Philippine Independent Power Producers Association and the Renewable Energy Association of the Philippines are the main sponsors of PowerTrends 2001, which is also supported by UK DTI New and Renewable Energy Program; Korea Electrical Manufacturers Association and Korea Electrical Manufacturers Cooperative.

DLSU-D inks MOA with Tesda

A MEMORANDUM of Agreement (MOA) was forged between De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda). The agreement was inked by EVP Dr. Herminia Torres and Tesda Cavite provincial director Remedios Flestado.

Tesda's regional competency assessment and certification committee also awarded DLSU-D a certificate of accreditation. DLSU-D is now an assessment venue in Automotive Mechanic, Building Wiring Technician, Consumer Electronics Mechanic and Draftsman (General).

PTM COMMITTEE VISITS GORDON

The organizing committee of the forthcoming 12th Philippine Travel Mart (PTM) recently paid a courtesy call to Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon. The event, dubbed as the biggest travel and tourism show in the country, is being organized by the Philippine Tour Operators Association (Philtoa) headed by Felix Christopher Alegre III, president and overall chair of the 12th PTM organizing committee. Alegre and other members of the organizing committee briefed Secretary Gordon, overall chair, on the thrusts and objectives of the 12th PTM. Photo shows Gordon and Alegre displaying the 12th PTM commemorative shirt while others look on. Shown, from left, are Rachel Titular, president, Vision Imex, exhibit manager; Cherrie-Pie Pena, chair, publicity and promotions; Sandy Pery, staff, Visions Imex; Aileen Domingo, secretary general; Sherlyn Zarraga, staff, Visions Imex (partly hidden) and Bing Francisco, chair, special events subcommittee. The 12th Philippine Travel Mart will be held from Nov. 23 to 25 at the SM Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall.

'MALL CULTURE'

Shoppers at the Shangri-La Plaza mall spotted Promil Gold's gifted child Bryan Sapigao on a spur-of-the-moment performance last Aug. 26. Onlookers were amazed by this child's exceptional talent as he played a few classical pieces--one of which is popularly heard from Promil Gold's recent TV commercial, Rachmaninoff's 'Bells of Moscow'. Bryan Sapigao is truly gifted with the outstanding ability for playing the piano. It all began when he took his first piano lesson at a tender age of 5. At age 8, Bryan was offered a piano scholarship at the University of the Philippines College of Music Extension Program. Not long after that, he was launched as a child prodigy in a concert orchestra sponsored by the University of the Philippines. Since then, Bryan has been performing with several symphony orchestras featuring great talents, him being the youngest. He has had over a hundred performances here and abroad, playing classical pieces by Mozzart, Haydn and Chopin, who were all child prodigies themselves. It's no wonder this child wonder could not resist the urge to play the piano whether at a grand orchestra or at the mall.

ExciteAtHome seeks bankruptcy protection

SAN FRANCISCO—ExciteAtHome became the biggest Internet company to fail, as the once high-flying Web portal and high-speed Internet service provider said Friday that it was filing for bankruptcy protection.

The firm, based in Redwood City, California, said in a statement it hoped to keep operating and had retained the investment-banking firm Houlihan Lokey Howard and Zukin Capital to help pursue "strategic alternatives" and assist with the bidding process for its assets.

It said it had "sufficient cash on hand to finance its operations," including employee salaries.

The firm said it had agreed "to sell essentially all of its broadband Internet access business assets and related services to AT&T for $307 million in cash," subject to approval of the bankruptcy court.

The company became one of the stars of the red-hot Internet industry, formed in 1999 when the AtHome broadband group bought the Excite portal for some $6.7 billion in stock.

But its stock price, which approached $100 during the Internet mania of 1999, has plummeted and was just 15 cents at the close Friday.

The filing under Chapter 11 of the US bankruptcy code "will enable ExciteAtHome to maintain operation of its high-speed cable Internet access services and other related services during the sale approval process," the company said.

"This filing is a tool to protect the value of the broadband business for the benefit of the company's financial stakeholders and will help reassure our customers that service will continue uninterrupted through the restructuring process," said Patti Hart, chair and chief executive.

The company operates the Excite Web portal that has been one of the top sites on the Internet but has been unable to keep up with giants such as Yahoo and the rise of Microsoft's MSN.

It recently reduced its emphasis on portals to concentrate on high-speed Internet delivery and has been among the biggest in the US market.

Excite had at least 15 regional sites, including those in Japan, Britain and Italy, after closing down some of its European portals.

It reported 3.2 million subscribers to its high-speed cable modem Internet access service as of March 2001.

Its portal operations were hit by the slump in Internet advertising and its Internet access prospects took a blow recently when Comcast and Cox, two of the leading US cable television providers, said agreements on Internet access would be allowed to expire next June.

The company said earlier in public filings that it would run out of cash by the end of the year. Excite reported a loss of more than $346 million in its most recent quarter.

AT&T Corp. was already a major stakeholder in the firm, and was expected to seek to integrate the Internet access services with its own cable TV operations, AT&T Broadband, which might then be sold or spun off.

"AT&T remains committed to working with ExciteAtHome's management and the bankruptcy court to provide uninterrupted high-speed cable Internet service to existing ExciteAtHome customers, as well as continuing relationships with other cable companies to ensure seamless service to their customers on the AtHome network," AT&T said in a statement.

"If the asset sale is approved, the company also said it plans to build on the assets it acquires to develop a more robust network while improving and growing its broadband high-speed Internet access business for all cable company subscribers." *AFP*

Indonesia says growth target faces downside risks

TOKYO—Indonesia's chief economics minister said on Saturday economic growth of around 3 percent this year might be elusive given the unexpected downside risks from the devastating terrorist attacks on the United States.

In an interview with Reuters Television in Tokyo, Dorodjatun Kuntjoro-Jakti said if a global recession followed as a result of the Sept. 11 attacks, Indonesia's gross domestic product could suffer since it was highly dependent on exports of commodities.

He said that according to US customs data for the January-June period, Indonesian exports to the United States were set to reach $10.5 billion this year. Now, that pace could slow considerably and this year's exports could fall far short of last year's, he said.

"Our fear is if it turns out to be a (global) recession, whatever the period, we will probably slide back to something like $9.6 billion (for this year)," he said.

"A downside risk (to the 3- to 3.5-percent GDP growth forecast) will be indicated by prices of commodities, which is the most important for Indonesia."

Dorodjatun said a worldwide recession next year would mean softer prices of oil, gas and other commodities, dealing a blow to the value of Indonesian exports.

He said the government had assumed crude oil prices to range between $22 and $23 per barrel, and that while stability seemed to have returned after some volatility in the market, there was a need to calculate the risk of further swings in prices.

Crude oil prices are currently around $23 a barrel.

"It's going to impact our capability for debt-servicing for sure," said the economics minister who is visiting Japan with Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri and other ministers.

Dorodjatun confirmed that the Paris Club of official creditors appeared set to back the second phase of a two-year debt-rescheduling deal with Indonesia.

The move paves the way for formal clearance of the second stage of a $5.8-billion debt accord struck in April 2000.

"In the discussions, I saw very positive support coming from both the United States and Japan. From the report of our team visiting Europe last week, we got the indication that the Paris Club also agreed to what we requested."

Last week, World Bank president James Wolfensohn said he was impressed by Indonesia's economic team and that the bank stood ready to support increased lending to the country.

The International Monetary Fund also restarted lending to Indonesia on Sept. 10 with the approval of a $395-million loan tranche of a $5-billion loan.

Under the $5-billion program, Indonesia is expected to agree to periodic reform measures to trigger the release of loans usually worth around $400 million each.

Asked if Jakarta would be forced to tone down some of its reform pledges due to the uncertainty ahead, Dorodjatun said: "I have to wait for analyses done by our colleagues in the US and Japan and also by the IMF and World Bank. I am also going to discuss it with the ADB (Asian Development Bank) in a few days.

"We really need a lot of comparisons from others before we come to any sense of what is going to happen in the coming months."

The IMF is set to send a high-level mission to Indonesia in November to assess the country's progress on a recently agreed batch of economic reforms.

Dorodjatun added, however, that he believed Jakarta already had plenty to show for itself in terms of reforms. He said that by the middle of October he expected divestments and privatization to have sped up.

The $395-million loan disbursement had been long delayed over a slew of failed economic reforms in the past and damaged investor confidence. *Reuters*

Merger of top South Korean banks approved

SEOUL—Shareholders of Kookmin Bank and Housing and Commercial Bank on Saturday approved the banks' merger to create South Korea's largest bank.

Despite a demonstration by about 1,000 people outside a general meeting of Kookmin Bank, major shareholders and foreign stakeholders, who accounted for a combined 83 percent of equity shares, backed the move.

Union members of Kookmin Bank and their relatives tried to force their way through a wall of riot police outside the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry building in central Seoul in a bid to hold up the merger.

Unions fear the new entity will close many branches with huge layoffs.

They insisted that they should be allowed to take part in the meeting in their capacity as small shareholders but Kookmin Bank stopped them, citing security fears.

"We declare the shareholders' meeting null and void as many small shareholders were prevented from taking part," a Kookmin Bank union leader said. He threatened to launch a strike to oppose the merger.

Housing and Commercial Bank held a separate shareholders' meeting at its headquarters and approved the merger, which would be officially launched on Nov. 1.

Earlier, Housing and Commercial Bank president Kim Jung-Tae was named to lead the new bank, which did not yet have a name.

Kookmin and Housing and Commercial Bank have combined assets of 163 trillion won ($124 billion). Between them, they have 122.2 trillion won in deposits, 19,888 employees and 1,149 branches.

The Kookmin-Housing and Commercial marriage is a pillar of President Kim Dae-Jung's reform program aimed at consolidating the country's weak financial sector.

The government is the largest shareholder in Housing and Commercial Bank with a 14.5-percent stake, followed by ING Barings with 9.99 percent. Goldman Sachs holds an 11.07-percent stake in Kookmin. *AFP*

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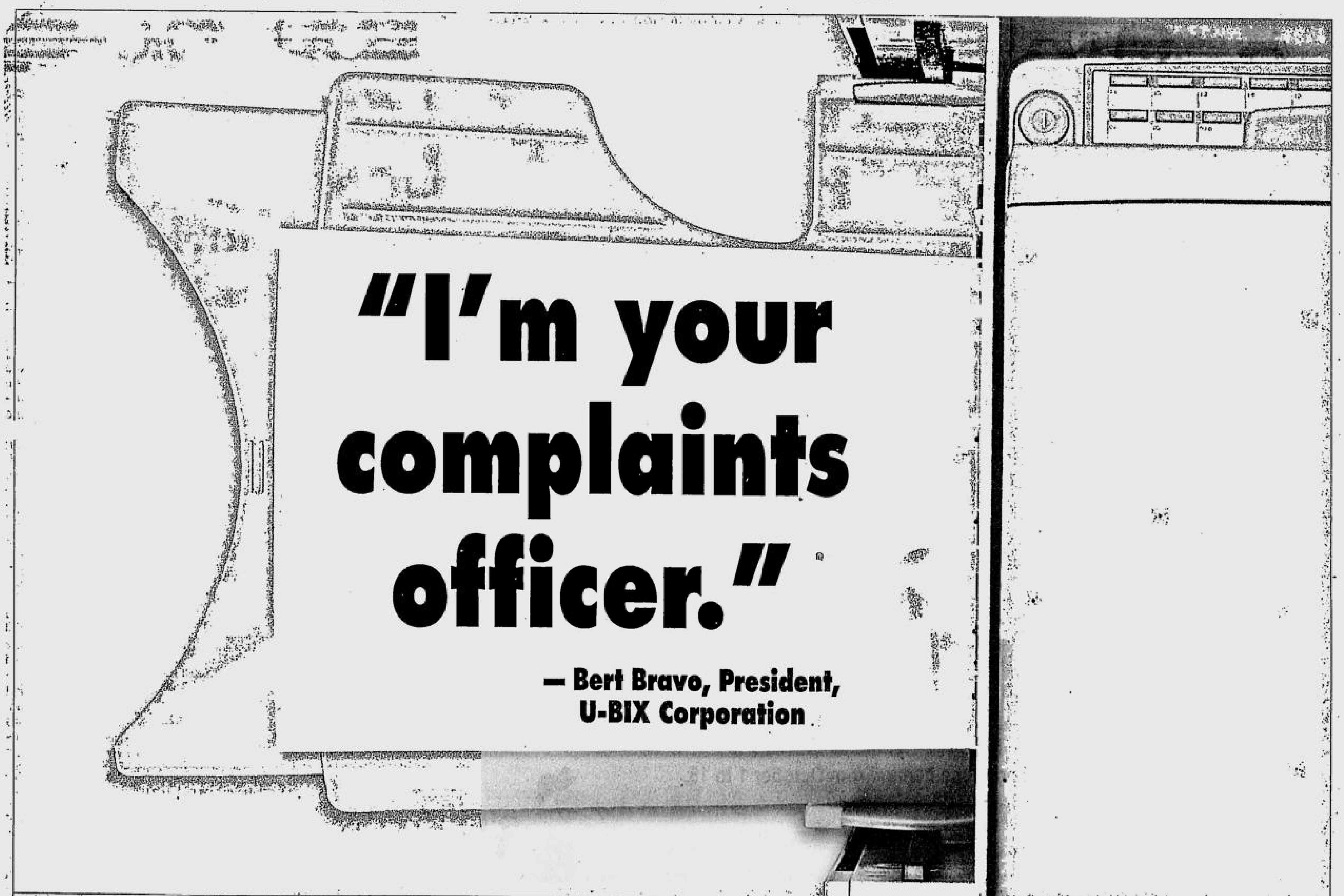
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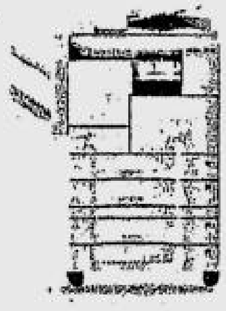

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BUSINESS

Gov't sets ₱3.5-B 'zero'-bond float

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Treasury is set to issue next week P3.5 billion worth of "zero" coupon bonds maturing in 10 years to help beef up the government's coffers.

In an interview, National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government decided to aim higher from an earlier plan to issue between P2 billion and P2.5 billion worth of debt notes that the market was referring to as "zeroes."

The new borrowing instrument will complement treasury bills and bonds that the government regularly issues, he said.

The government was set to issue the 10-year "zeroes" tomorrow but decided to wait for one more week to give the market more time to sell the instruments to their clients.

Malacañang has approved the Department of Finance's request for a mandate to issue P300 billion worth of "zeroes." These instruments carry a maturity of two, three, four, five, seven and 10 years.

The new bonds, the first-of-its-kind in the Philippines, may be issued by the Treasury over-the-counter or through an auction or a tap facility.

The government may also ask private investment banks to handle a firm underwriting for the bonds, pursue a combined book building or even a public offering.

"This is in line with our intention to offer new products to the market. The zero coupon bond assures that the interest of an investor is reinvested," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said.

Edeza said, meanwhile, that the government would resist the market's efforts to bid up treasury rates anew in today's auction.

Traders said they expected the yield of the 91-day tenor to rise by 5 to 10 basis points, while rates of longer-dated instruments could go up by 15 to 25 basis points, citing the central bank's cut in its policy rates.

Edeza stressed, however, that rates had hit the ceiling, and the government would deal with any further increase from last week's average. He said rates should even go down in anticipation of another cut in US interest rates.

Cell phone firms urged to offer voice messaging

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission is suggesting that the country's mobile phone firms provide an alternative to text messaging: short voice messaging.

"It could be a 10-second voice call that costs 50 centavos each," NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said in an interview Friday.

He said he had yet to submit a formal proposal to Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc., but he had already mentioned it to them in several instances and the country's No. 1 and No. 2 cellular phone providers said they would study it.

Rio broached the idea of short voice messaging in view of the public outcry that arose from the recent text slash that Smart and Globe implemented.

The NTC announced two weeks ago that it found no evidence that the two companies were colluding when setting their rates, but said it would investigate charges of price distortion.

"They must prove to us that the way they're selling their products will not result in inefficiency," Rio said.

Government regulators have repeatedly threatened to block Globe and Smart from taking in new customers following complaints that their networks are so congested that it is becoming increasingly difficult to place calls or send text messages.

Rio said mobile phone firms could ease their network congestion problems by using voice channels.

He said for every transmitter, there were eight channels. Of these, seven are for voice and one is set aside for a "signaling channel." This lone channel is where millions of text messages pass through daily.

"If they can offer short voice messaging at 50 centavos each, they will be able to utilize their voice channels and, at the same time, give back to their subscribers the free text messages that they took away," he said.

Lawyer says Meralco hiding deposit interests

By Elena R. Torrijos

A LAWYER has accused Manila Electric Co., the country's biggest electric utility, of concealing, through faulty accounting, non-payment of billions of pesos of deposit interests it allegedly owes small residential customers.

In a letter to the Securities and Exchange Commission, Leonardo Aurelio of the AM Sison Jr. and Associates law office reiterated his request for an investigation into Meralco's practice of failing to disclose correctly its liabilities.

Aurelio charged that Meralco was evading recognition in its books of P3 billion in unpaid interests that should go to small residential customers.

With the non-recognition of the mandated yet unpaid interests, Meralco's financial statements for 2000 and prior years were significantly distorted, he claimed.

He said Meralco's net income for 2000 was overstated by P558.96 million, while its retained earnings were P2.858 billion more than it should have been.

"Consequently, investors are being misled by the inaccurate price to earnings ratio and earnings per share of Meralco since they are being computed based on the net income of the company," Aurelio said.

He said based on a special receipt issued by Meralco, deposits of residential, commercial and industrial customers were earning an interest of 6 percent per annum. Both deposits and interests should have been applied against any unpaid bills, he said.

Meralco's terms and conditions of service stated that all residential, commercial and industrial customers should make a deposit equivalent to the customer's estimated monthly billing, he said.

Deposits are required when the company is ready to supply electric services and the deposits are refundable upon termination of its services if all accounts have been paid upon written request.

Meralco general counsel and assistant to the president Pastor del Rosario admits that Meralco pays yearly interests to some large business customers if requested but does not do the same for small residential customers even if specifically demanded, according to Aurelio.

In reports to the listing and disclosures department of the Philippine Stock Exchange, Meralco said it paid annually around P26 million in interests to preferred customers from 1995 to 1999 and P42.5 million last year.

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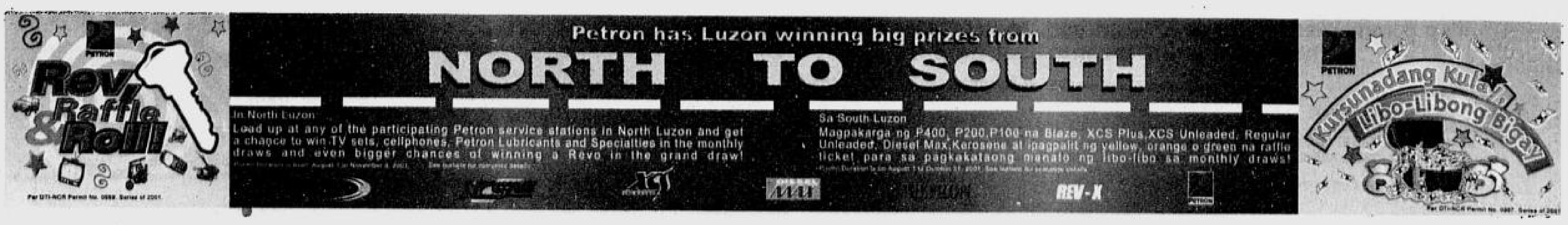

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Where to now for the Philippine economy?

By **Dennis M. Arroyo**

THE HIJACKED planes may have hit New York and Washington but the impact reverberated around the world, the Philippines included.

This is because the United States is the world's biggest market for exports. The Philippines, for instance, exports the bulk of its electronics products (which account for 60 percent of the basket of exports) to the US.

Filipinos who worked for the slumping electronics industry have been reeling from the global slowdown in demand long before the planes crashed into the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.

The electronics and construction sectors already lost 43,000 jobs over the last 18 months. Then came the attack, and the situation would surely worsen before it gets better.

Donald Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, said, "we expected these industries to stabilize and start recovering by the first quarter of next year." The terror of Sept. 11 changed all that.

"With the US war on terrorists, we expect the electronics industry to suffer more," he added.

Ecop noted that foreign electronics and garment companies cut back much of their orders following the terror wave.

Can't we export to Japan and Europe then?

Sadly, they are in trouble, too. Japan and Europe are usually up when the US economy is down, but not now. Alternatively, when Japan is down, at least the US and Europe are up. Today, all three engines of world growth are down. All three were hit when the tech bubble burst. That in turn choked demand for Asia's main exports of electronics.

The world's second-largest economy is Japan's, and it has been contracting. The economy declined by 3.2 percent in the second quarter. The third largest is Germany, and its industrial production machine has also been sliding.

The situation was already one of a global slowdown before the disaster of Sept. 11.

How much damage was done last Sept. 11?

The estimate is some $25 billion crumbled to dust, according to the US insurance industry.

Then think of the add-ons. The New York stock market was shut down. Air travel and air cargo came to a halt on that fateful week. Businesses had to close for a few days. Airlines were forced to lay off thousands of employees.

How does all these impact on the American economy?

The transmission mechanism is consumer confidence.

In the days immediately after Sept. 11, customers were not keen to go to stores. The day had signaled that even the mighty United States was vulnerable—this was a blow to the psyche similar to what happened after the Pearl Harbor attack.

Living in a suddenly insecure world, US consumers were not in the mood to spend much. Better to reserve money for a rainy day. The impact will be seen in the economic data covering the 3rd and 4th quarters. The damper on the public mood is bad for Christmas shopping.

We will likely see a steep fall in consumption. This should pull down profits by at least 10 percent.

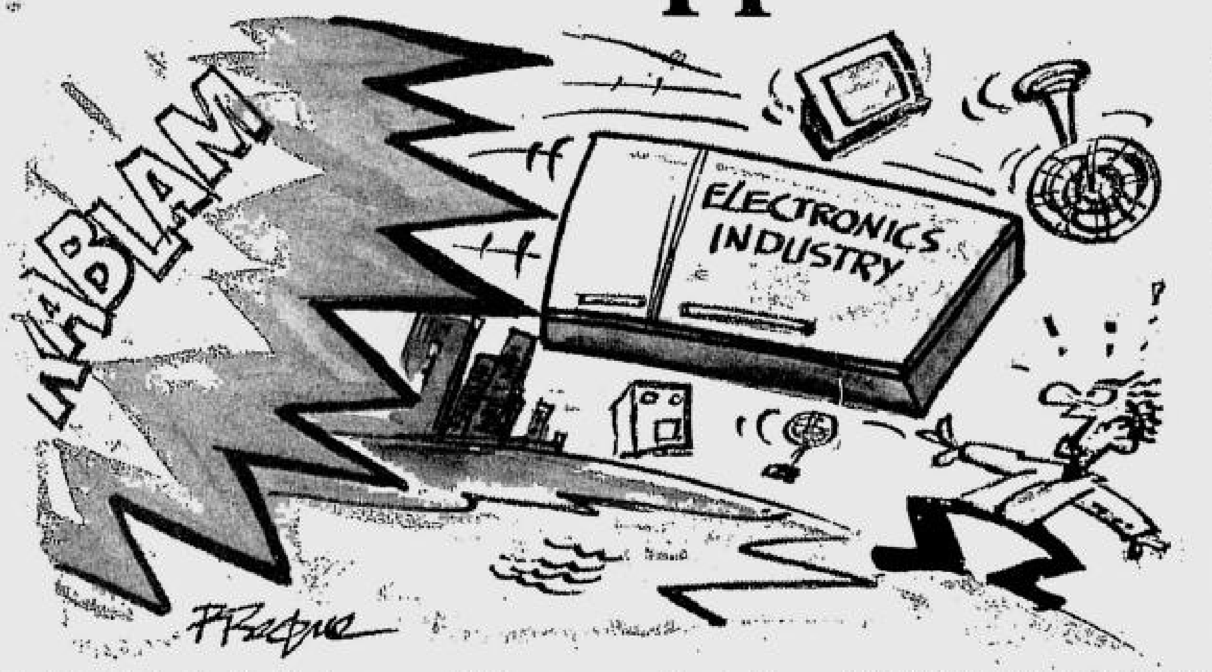
Won't investment make up for the slack?

When consumers postpone their spending, firms are forced to postpone their investments as well.

It's no surprise that the New York stock market reeled from the bombing. That just follows the historical pattern.

The Dow Jones index fell by 6.5 percent after Pearl Harbor, by 17.9 percent during the Arab oil embargo, by 15.5 percent after President Nixon resigned and by 12.4 percent during the Asian stock market crisis.

The investment crunch was global.



On Sept. 11, the Frankfurt stock exchange fell by almost 9 percent. South Korea's bourse dived by 12 percent. Japan's Nikkei dropped by 7 percent on Sept. 12—marking the lowest level of the market there since 1983.

What will help global recovery?

Get the war over with, quickly. Alas, this won't happen.

When the US counter-attacked Iraq in the Gulf War, confidence rebounded and the recession ended. Consumer spending caught up in a few months. However, this war against terrorism will take a longer time.

It does not cover a specific piece of territory but is scattered around the globe. Terrorists are elusive by definition. How will the economic mood take to a prolonged campaign?

Don't hike oil prices

The invasion of Kuwait and the beating of war drums spiked the price of oil from $20 per barrel to $40. The US stock market fell by 15 percent after Saddam Hussein's forces invaded the oil-rich land.

Four months after the invasion, the consumer confidence index fell by 40 percent.

It is fortunate though that the Opec has not hiked oil prices. The cartel is assuring the world that it will keep on supplying oil.

Cut interest rates

Central Bankers around the world will have to cut interest rates significantly to keep their economies above the water.

The US Federal Reserve responded correctly by releasing more liquidity. On normal days, the Fed injects $5 billion into the money market. The day after the tragedy, the Fed released $38 billion.

Central banks in Japan and Europe echoed the sentiment, and all three coughed up $165 billion into financial markets the day after the attack.

How do we in the Philippines respond?

It is time to focus on the domestic economy. Demand will have to be driven by the largest segment, the *masa* crowd, so attend to the needs of the lower classes.

He opted to be booted out than take the less painful exit through resignation

By **Doris C. Dumlao**

HE could have opted for a graceful exit by resigning from his post, but ousted Philippine Stock Exchange president Ramon T. "RTG" Garcia, who believed he had always worked for the interest of the exchange, chose to defend his name even if it meant fighting an uphill battle.

On Wednesday night, majority of the PSE's board of directors executed a vote of "no confidence" on RTG over a controversial word war with Metro Pacific Corp. chair Manuel V. Pangilinan on the construction of the unified trading floor in the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

The following day was a sad day for many PSE employees and member-brokers. RTG had to pack his bags right away, leaving people outside of the board wondering as to what grave crime he had committed to deserve such punishment.

Among the first ones to call RTG to give moral support was former President Corazon Aquino under whose administration he served as chief executive trustee of the Asset Privatization Trust.

He says that the former President said she would pray for him. She reminded Garcia that she has always admired his being independent even when he was still with government.

RTG said he appreciated an earlier offer from the board for him to resign as a less painful exit, but noted that such act would have been a "seeming admission of guilt" on his part.

"I am not about to throw away all the values and principles I have struggled to live by merely to save face. I therefore chose to take the unpopular path and bear the consequences of my decisions," he said.

Although sacked as president, RTG would still sit as a non-broker member of the board. As a charismatic leader, he believes he can still rally support from the rest of the PSE member-brokers who installed him to the 15-member board in the first place.

"In the spirit of due process, all I ask is this opportunity to be heard in accordance with the rules and bylaws of the PSE. Having been recently converted into a stock corporation, the PSE is now owned by its broker-members, who are currently initiating moves to challenge the board's decision to oust me as PSE president," he stressed.

GARCIA

Although the board was given the authority to install or remove any one from the management staff, the underlying contention was that the stockholders—the PSE membership—still had the final say and could always overturn the actions of the elected board.

With this challenge, a proxy war is expected to erupt between the supporters of RTG and the group that wanted him out.

Every one is hoping, however, that the battle would be issue-oriented and not degenerate into a mud-slinging contest between the two groups.

RTG said he needed 50 percent plus one of the PSE members to say yes to his call for a stockholders' meeting. He is confident that he would be able to mobilize the numbers he needs to convene a meeting within the first 15 days of October.

"Hopefully, in the meeting, my case will be discussed. Since I thought I did the right thing, I hope the members will listen," RTG says.

RTG says he was removed because of alleged unprofessionalism and mismanagement. Other directors said he was perceived as a "loose cannon" in the handling of the Fort Bonifacio controversy and other issues.

"The board believed that his response to the Fort Bonifacio issue was not commensurate to what was happening to the PSE," a director said, referring to an earlier press statement where Garcia lambasted the credibility of Pangilinan and the First Pacific group that he represented.

As a result, Pangilinan tendered his irrevocable resignation as a non-broker

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New SSS ID can help prevent money laundering, terrorism

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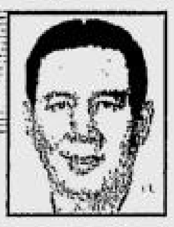

Renato C. Valencia

MAY our legislators please take note?

The new Social Security System identification system can help prevent money laundering, terrorism, frauds and other illegal operations. Moreover, it can speed up commercial, financial and government transactions.

Plus, it can provide a reliable ID system for Internet transactions and help the Philippines leapfrog into the new economy. Best of all, it helps protect and preserve personal privacy.

New SSS ID

The new SSS ID system using Afis, or Automated Fingerprint Identification System, was introduced by the SSS in 1997. SSS has issued over 2 million new IDs, and intends to give new IDs to all its members, presently over 20 million and expected to grow to over 30 million in a few years.

The new SSS ID links the person to his fingerprint. As we know, no two persons are alike. Human features like fingerprints, iris, face, palm, etc. can be measured to differentiate one person from another.

Such measurement is called "biometrics." Among various "biometrics," fingerprint is most widely used, especially for crime detection, access to high security areas, and more recently, for benefits and privileges (welfare, social security, health care, driver's license, etc.).

Before the advent of Afis, only experts could identify fingerprints, and only after a tedious, thorough and slow process. With Afis, fingerprints can now be matched and identified by any reliable computer software in seconds.

To get your new SSS ID, just go to your nearest SSS office. They will take your photo, scan your fingerprints, give your PIN (personal identification number) and issue your temporary ID made of paperboard.

The Afis will match your fingerprint against others, and if your fingerprint is unique, which is likely, SSS will issue your new plastic ID with machine-readable fingerprint record in a week or two.

It is not easy to forge the new SSS ID. First, forgers and counterfeiters are mostly backyard operators who cannot afford the hundreds of million pesos needed to put up an appropriate ID factory. Second, the new ID has many security features, making it tamperproof. Finally, with fingerprint scanner and computer software, the new ID allows instant, on-the-spot or point-of-sale identification by matching a person's fingerprint with the fingerprint record in the ID card.

Against money laundering, frauds

Money laundering and frauds thrive on fake and layered identities. Crooks engaging in money laundering and frauds use fake passports, fake IDs, fake birth certificates and other fake documents.

How do we put an end to fake accounts, fake IDs and fake transactions?

First, we must require the new social security number (with Afis) for all bank deposits, financial instruments and other public documents that require notarization. Second, to the extent possible, we must link passports, birth certificates, voter's ID, driver's license, tax account number, company IDs, credit, debit and stored value cards to the new social security ID.

Third, we must require the use of the new social security ID for all commercial and public transactions needing proper identification.

Corporations, partnerships and single proprietorships can be more vulnerable to money laundering and frauds since only SEC registration or business licenses are required for social security registration. But their signatories can be required to submit their social security number, thus making it easier to identify people involved in any illegal transaction.

For banks and financial institutions, using social security ID as reference for all bank accounts and transactions will make it easier for them to consolidate and manage accounts, as well as determine account profitability. They could also easily drill down on any particular transaction, which they may want to review.

Against terrorism

A terrorist, whether foreign or local, seldom attacks his own community. His modus operandi is to move to another community using a fake identity, blend with the people there, strike and then flee. Terrorists, like crooks, generally use fake passports, fake driver's licenses, fake birth certificates, etc.

Foreign residents, as well as non-residents staying longer than, say, three months in the country, may be required to register with social security. With passports, driver's licenses, as well as credit, debit and stored value cards linked to the social security number, terrorists will find it difficult to assume fake identities and disappear in a community. On the contrary, authorities will find it easier to

NEW SSS/ C3

He opted . .

(From page C1)

member of the PSE board. With RTG's ouster, Pangilinan is said to be considering a comeback.

Fort Bonifacio

The controversy with Pangilinan stemmed from the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp.'s request to change the terms of a 1999 donation agreement for the PSE's future headquarters in the Global City.

Part of the earlier agreement was for the FBDC to provide free construction design and detailed engineering plans as well as P250 million for the stock exchange structure. It was also agreed that the construction would start this year so that the PSE could transfer to a unified trading floor by 2004.

Recently, however, FBDC wanted to put the PSE headquarters in a new location and to pull out from its commitment to shoulder the construction costs.

Garcia had said the PSE would be willing to waive the 2004 deadline to finish the project in light of the difficult economic environment, but the location of the unified bourse was non-negotiable.

He said the PSE felt "short-changed" for the Pangilinan's group to even insinuate that the future bourse be located in an equivalent 4,000-square-meter lot in the e-Square zone of Global City instead of the main business hub in Capital Place.

Industry sources said Pangilinan and other PSE directors were upset by the strongly worded press statement lambasting the FBDC chair and the entire First Pacific group. The statement, whose most controversial portion RTG did not even read during the press conference, was reportedly prepared by a PR consultant hired by the PSE's building committee to exert pressure on Pangilinan's group.

"My decision to bring out the facts was arrived at after much prayer, thought and consulting with people whose opinions mattered. As spokesperson, president and CEO of the exchange, I delivered the statement last Sept. 17 in a press conference, much to the dismay of some PSE governors who attempted to convince me to downplay the facts and keep the truth confined within the PSE's walls," Garcia said.

But RTG stressed that he was not the type of leader who could be pushed around, especially since he was simply defending the truth and the interests of the PSE.

The day RTG was sacked, FBDC submitted to the PSE an improved offer, yielding to the demand for the original location and even allocating a bigger gross floor area of 12,000 square meters.

The 1,000-square-meter size of the lot, however, is smaller than the 4,000-square-meter earlier committed.

The proposal—which will delay the project completion even more—will still have to be approved by the PSE board and ratified by the stockholders.

If FBDC still fails to start the construction seven years from the execution of the project, FBDC could opt for another two-year extension or simply transfer the donated lot to the PSE without any more conditions.

The new project will also be treated as an entirely new agreement that would supersede the earlier agreement in 1999.

Despite his recent ouster, Garcia said yesterday that he was glad the PSE would get an even better package compared with the original offer from FBDC.

"People may read all sorts of things into this move on the part of Fort Bonifacio, some attributing it to the pressure of the press pronouncements I made, others perhaps to their savvy skills on the negotiating table," Garcia said.

"Either way, I am sincerely happy that the result is a victory for PSE. The truth has been spoken and we won our battle," Garcia said.

Own battle

But RTG's own battle has just begun. In his own words, the PSE board meeting that ousted him as president was just the first round. For RTG, it would be a crusade to clear his name, never a desperate attempt to cling to power.

"About a year and a half ago, I answered the call of duty to restore security and integrity into the PSE after the BW Resources controversy. On the verge of enjoying my retirement and the fruits of many years' labor at maintaining a clear track record in all aspects of my personal life and professional career in both public and private services, I chose to rise to the challenge offered to me by the PSE," RTG said.

"For the record, I did not ask for this job nor did I accept the many substantial and yes—tempting—perks that came along the PSE presidency. I was criticized for employing a simplistic back-to-basics strategy in exchange and scorned for continuing to drive my humble Volkswagen Beetle to work," he said.

"But from the first day of my work as PSE president, it was clear to me that I was to lead by example, and this meant standing up for the time-honored principles of simplicity, prudence, accountability, sincerity, integrity and good governance," he added

It remains to be seen whether RTG would be able to muster enough support from the 184 PSE member-brokers (or stockholders) to reverse the decision of the PSE board (of which five were absent while the rest voted 9 to 1 in favor of dismissing RTG).

Based on the outpouring of support from the PSE employees and member-brokers, however, the public is still waiting for the PSE board to eliminate the looming feeling of injustice by proving beyond reasonable doubt why RTG did not deserve the post.

Asked whether he would still be happy to work for PSE with these detractors around in case he gets his job back, RTG said: "There will be another election in March and maybe, some of the (incumbent) PSE board members will no longer be reelected because of what they did to me, so I think this is a blessing in disguise."

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'Demand only what you yourself can do'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MANAGEMENT STYLES

ARNEL B. Aranas spent over seven years as a flight steward of national flag carrier Philippine Airlines before he decided that he wanted to explore different heights. Not 30,000 feet above the ground, but from his vantage point as the first Filipino chief executive officer of American Standard, Philippines.

His experience as a steward aboard domestic and international flights, however, did not go to waste. Combining his skills in dealing with different kinds of people and his educational background as an Industrial Engineering graduate of Mapua Institute of Technology, he worked his way up the American Standard corporate ladder.

He started off as a project sales officer who sold American Standard products to large developers in July 1995, moved up to become account executive, and in just two years was appointed project and export sales manager.

Just a year later, he was made general sales manager, then sales director in January this year and finally named president just last May.

He was at the right place at the right time as the head office of American Standard decided that it was better to get a local to handle the local operations. They believed that the locals would be more effective as chief executive officers because they knew the market and they knew the people better than their expatriate counterparts.

Among the several candidates, Aranas came out ahead.

Aranas, however, admitted to the INQUIRER that he was initially daunted by his new responsibility as chief executive of a multinational company. But the members of his staff were the first to assure him that he could do the job, and do it well. If he could bring himself to meet goals, then he could inspire others to do the same.

Aranas said one of the first things he did was to flatten the organization to put management closer to the rank and file employees. He believed that a flat organization would get things done faster and more efficiently.

He carried over his style as sales director wherein he emphasized on teamwork and good personal relationships to get the staff to meet their goals, even exceed them.

"I believe that it is only through teamwork that we can survive. This was one of the things I instituted when I was appointed president," he says.

Aranas adds that he also leads by example. He teaches the philosophy to his staff that he only demands from them what he can also do himself.

"If I work then they should also work. I come in as early as 7:30 in the morning to start my day," he continues.

These management philosophies lived by Aranas helped the Philippine operations of American Standard reverse the downward trend of its sales, starting from the time that he was still sales director of the company.

From a net loss of 1998, sales went up enough to put the company back in the black by 1999. Profits have continued to increase over the last two years.

"I keep on pushing the people to do everything to keep the customers happy and to reach them through proper distribution. I try to tell them that dealing with customers does not end with just one sale or transaction," Aranas explains.

Aranas says they all have to work double time because of the difficult environment and the slump in the real estate market.

"During times like these, the only way to improve our sales is to get the market away from the competitors and we are trying to do this by bringing in new models, packages, on-time delivery and by becoming more efficient," he explains.

AMERICAN Standard's Aranas

> 'If I work then they should also work. I come in as early as 7:30 in the morning to start my day'

New SSS ID can help prevent money laundering, terrorism

(From page C2)

trace their movements.

Commercial, financial and government transactions take time for various reasons, but a common cause is the difficult process of identifying a person.

Most public and private institutions require all kinds of identification papers: passport, driver's license, birth certificate, company ID, etc. Despite this tedious process, fake IDs still proliferate.

All we really need for proper identification is the new SSS ID. It is tamper-proof, tough to clone and allows easy identification through the ID picture, PIN or matching of holder's fingerprint with that of the ID.

Both GSIS and SSS are considering upgrading their plastic IDs to smart cards with computer chips.

A smart card can have many purposes: social security, Medicare, driver's license, passport, voter's ID, loyalty card, company ID, automated teller machine (ATM) card, and e-purse.

The Afis prevents multiple registration. The chip's excellent security features make the ID tamper-proof. As e-purse, the smart card can make speedy micro payments for fixed or mobile telephone calls, mass transit, toll ways, parking buildings, theaters, amphitheaters, as well as purchases of goods in stores.

Smart card

A smart card with fingerprint system will enable a foolproof, point-of-sale identification of the person transacting business in the Internet without having to access any database. At present, many are still uncomfortable to use credit cards with PIN for commercial transactions in the Internet. The new ID with fingerprint system can encourage higher volumes of commercial transactions in the Internet.

Issuing smart multipurpose ID cards to all GSIS and SSS members will create the critical mass needed to spur Internet transactions in the Philippines.

The advent of additional Internet access appliances such as telephones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), TV sets, etc. and the proliferation of Internet cafés will also help boost this development.

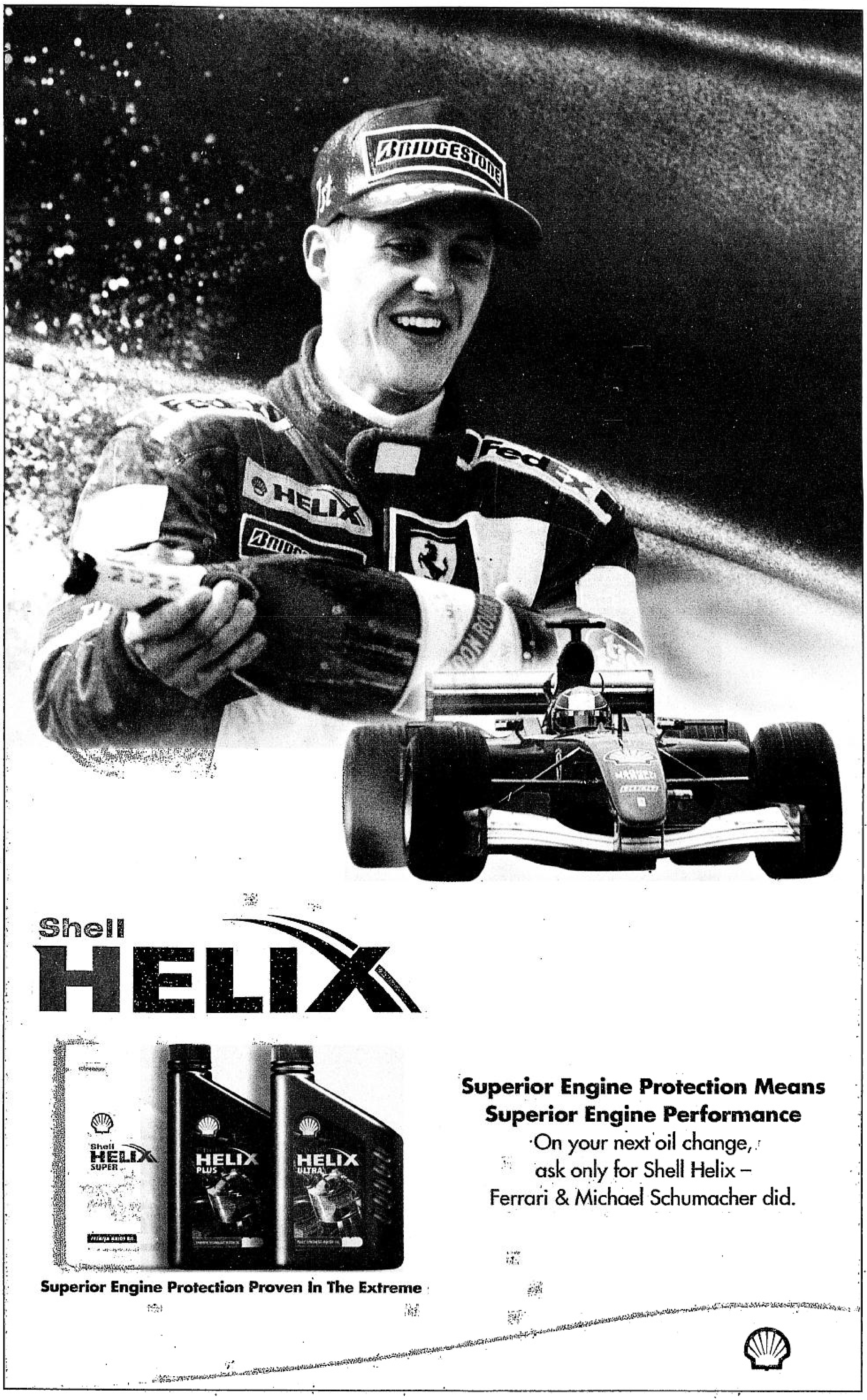
With the ATM machines, one needs the ATM card and PIN to access his bank account and check his balance, transfer amounts or withdraw money.

With the new SSS ID, one can additionally require instantaneous matching of a person's fingerprint with that in the ID card for bigger withdrawals or more confidential information.

Only a court order or a legal requirement can enable authorities to look into one's bank account or confidential information without his consent. His social security ID, his PIN and—if so designed—his fingerprint, obviously with his consent, will be necessary to open up his bank account or his confidential files. This will help protect personal privacy.

In conclusion, may our legislators please consider this proposition?

(This article reflects the personal opinion of the author who is a member of Management Association of the Philippines, vice chair of Asia Pacific Network Holding Inc. and former administrator of the Social Security System. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph.)



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BEST EMPLOYERS IN ASIA

Investing in people pays more in the end

By Michelle V. Remo

THE IMPORTANCE of investing in the development of a product or service to catch the fancy of the target market has always been underscored as key to the success of any business organization.

But for companies to even stand a chance of competing in the global marketplace, they should invest in people—the employees.

The world's top corporations know that investing in people will prove to pay more in the end.

"Without committed and talented people, your corporate vision will become a pipe dream," says Mick Bennett, managing director for Asia Pacific of Hewitt Associates, a global human resource consultancy firm.

To recognize these firms that put premium on their employees, Hewitt, together with the Dow Jones publications, came up with a search for the Best Employers in Asia.

Hewitt also conducted a search for the Best Employers here in the country in cooperation with the Management Association of the Philippines.

According to Hewitt, the one thing common among the Best Employers is that "they stand a much better chance than the rest of attracting and retaining the talent they need to achieve success in their line of business."

Hewitt says in its newsletter that industries around the globe suffer a scarcity of talent due to "falling birth rates in certain parts of the globe, retiring baby boomers and maturing generation Xers."

Thus, it is during this crucial time that honoring the Best Employers—those who keep and easily attract top-class human resource—becomes even more significant.

The country's best employers agree that paying attention to people is not just one of the factors, but rather the most important one that contributes to a company's growth.

THE HAPPY human resource directors of the country's best employers with Hewitt officials.

This is apparently because "it is the employees whom customers talk to," says Excel Philippines human resource director Voltaire Villegas. "Employee behavior drives customer behavior, and customer behavior drives business performance," adds Hewitt.

Creating an ambience in the office that resembles the comforts of home where everyone is a family member is how Excel accommodates its employees.

Villegas says that birthdays of employees are usually celebrated. With a simple cake and candles, the celebrator feels that he or she really is a part of the company's family.

For its part, WG&A HR director Teresita Tongco says, "better people build better system, which builds values, which build customers and which build margin, and the cycle continues."

Given the significance of taking good care of people, Tongco says WG&A regularly conducts what it calls the "people management program."

Tongco explains that with this program, the company gathers its employees at least once a month to tackle a specific value (balanced lifesytle, for example) that is beneficial for their wholistic development. They invite speakers to conduct such discussions.

She adds that the company also provides its employees with an 80-hour-a-year training on work-related skills. An example is training on technology that may aid in their career development.

Similarly, Villegas says that Excel takes into consideration "social responsibility" when dealing with employees, meaning they help in "upgrading their quality of life, that is, paying them right—making sure that they have something for their families—training and educating them."

Like the wholistic training that WG&A provides, Villegas says Excel does not only provide training on the employees' work in the office, but also training for the development of every aspect of their well-being, such as family relationships.

Pfizer, on the other hand, "handles the employees with care," says human resource director Ma. Angelica Lleander.

Providing their employees with enough training programs and benefits, like free medicine, has been the company's practice, says Lleander.

Pfizer allows flexible work schedule for their employees, that is, they can come anytime as long as they finish 40 hours of work a week.

Conducting a "Kapihan with the CEOs," meanwhile, is the way Philips Philippines reaches out to its employees.

HR director Mario Mayo explains that employees' easy access to their executives is observed in Philips' offices, unlike in other companies where the rank and file do not have easy access to their executives.

To achieve progress, Philips embraces the motto "Business Excellence Through Speed and Teamwork or BEST," and that this could only be made possible with the proper involvement of people.

Jollibee—the No. 1 Best Employer in the country and No.16 in Asia—also conducts regular dialogues with employees as part of its communication program, says HR director Robert Poblete.

Providing a venue where the rank and file can air their concerns helps the employees and the company alike meet their needs. This ultimately makes employees more productive in their work.

Substantiating the benefits of investing in people, Gliceria Bagasin of Avon shares that her company continues to grow and that in September of this year alone, Avon has reached the P1-billion (in revenue) mark.

This surpassed Avon's full-year revenue last year. As the 3rd Best Employer in the country, Avon pays particular attention to a culture in the company with a "high standard" of people involvement, says Bagasin.

Tongco says their competitors "spend a lot on facilities and miss out investing in people, and with this they don't even come close to where we are."

Dominic Mariano of Hewitt explains that the Best Employers were judged based on the work environment, pay and career opportunities in the office.

Hewitt surveyed samples of employees per company together with its CEOs and human resource directors.

Asked about how they feel about the accolades they received for landing on the list of Best Employers, the winners say the award suggests that they are on the right track when it comes to dealing with their people.

Though elated with the recognition, the Best Employers say it's not the award per se that makes them proud, but the knowledge that they are successful in handling and making their people content.

For Jollibee, for instance, Poblete says landing on the No. 1 spot is not actually their concern, but "striving for excellence in what they do."

THE COUNTRY'S BEST EMPLOYERS

1. Jollibee Foods Corp.
2. Smart Communications Inc.
3. Avon Cosmetics Inc.
4. International Exchange Bank
5. Excel Philippines Inc.
6. William, Gothong and Aboitiz Inc.
7. Sunlife of Canada Philippines Inc.
8. Bayer Philippines Inc.
9. Pfizer Inc.
10. Philips Philippines /United Laboratories

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To register or not to register your business

By Salvador I. Sibayan
UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries

GOING INTO BUSINESS

THERE are entrepreneurs who choose not to register their businesses. These unregistered businesses are known as "informal" or underground" enterprises. Some informal businesses remain informal forever. Others eventually decide to make their businesses formal.

An informal business does not pay taxes. It can also pay workers below minimum wage rates. In a sense, an informal businessman is free from government intervention and control.

There are even some informal businesses like factories that employ as many as 100 workers or so. You only get to know about these when their employees go on strike. Very likely, that's the time you get to find out that management does not pay the minimum wage or remit SSS premiums—at least these are what some of the picket signs say.

In another sense, however, informal businessmen are more open to harassment by law enforcers. Common examples are vendors who play "hide and seek" with policemen. Other examples are unlicensed stores and shops that pay "protection money" to government people who may otherwise clamp down on their operations. This amount can be substantial in the long run.

So if you are tempted to go "underground," remember that businesses need the protection of the law in order to survive and grow.

To be credible as a businessman, you need to issue official receipts. And this means that your business has to be legal. Most support agencies for SMEs also require a business to be licensed to qualify for credit, technical and other assistance.

The four forms of business

If you have decided to register your business, the next thing to do is to decide what form you will register it—which may be either of the following:

Sole proprietorship. A sole proprietorship (also known as a single proprietorship) is a business owned and managed by only one person. It is the simplest and most common form.

Most small businesses start as a sole proprietorship. If you choose to register as one, you and your business become one.

Partnership. A partnership involves co-ownership of the business. This means that there are two or more partners (as many as 20) who are co-owners and who will pool their resources and abilities to make the business run and make profits.

You and your partners share profits equally unless stated otherwise in a document known as the Partnership Agreement. A close look at a sole proprietorship and partnership shows that they are very similar.

As in sole proprietorships, the profits of the business are the income of the partners and are taxed as personal income.

Like a sole proprietorship, a partnership has unlimited liability. This means that if the resources of the business are not enough to pay all the debts, the general partners become personally liable for the unpaid claims.

They may have to use their personal resources to satisfy the creditors unless they are limited partners, in which case they are only liable to the extent of their capital contributions.

Remember, too, that the property invested by a partner into the business becomes the joint ownership of all the partners. In effect, the property is no longer the personal property of one partner.

As in a sole proprietorship, the life of a partnership ends with the death of one of the partners—or with the mutual consent of all partners.

Corporation. A corporation (sometimes called a company) involves five or more persons owning the business and who may or may not be affiliated with one another.

In the eyes of the law, a corporation is a "person." It is a "legal person" (which of course is different from a natural person, like you and me).

It is called a legal person because the law allows it to do most business acts that a natural person can do. It has legal rights and responsibilities. It can sue and be sued; own and dispose of property; and operate a business as specified in its By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation.

The ownership of a corporation is divided into units known as "shares of stocks." The buyers of these stocks, called stockholders, also become part-owners of the business. Management of a corporation is vested on a board of directors elected by the stockholders on a regular basis.

Unlike the first two legal forms, the life of a corporation is not affected by the death of a stockholder or by the stockholder's sale of his stock.

Cooperative. A cooperative is another form of business set up by a number of persons who want to supply themselves with goods or services at more reasonable costs than if they had bought these from a retailer or a middleman.

The Cooperative Code or Republic Act 6938 further classifies cooperatives into any of the following:

Credit cooperative, which creates funds in order to extend loans to its members for productive purposes;

Consumers cooperative, which procures and distributes commodities to its members and non-members;

Producers cooperative, which undertakes joint production activities, whether agricultural or industrial;

Marketing cooperative, which supplies production inputs to its members and markets their products;

Service cooperative, which engages in transportation, light and power, and other services; and

Multi-purpose cooperative, which combines two or more of the business activities of these different types of cooperatives.

A cooperative is managed by a set of officers collectively known as the board of trustees. Each member has one vote regardless of the number of shares bought.

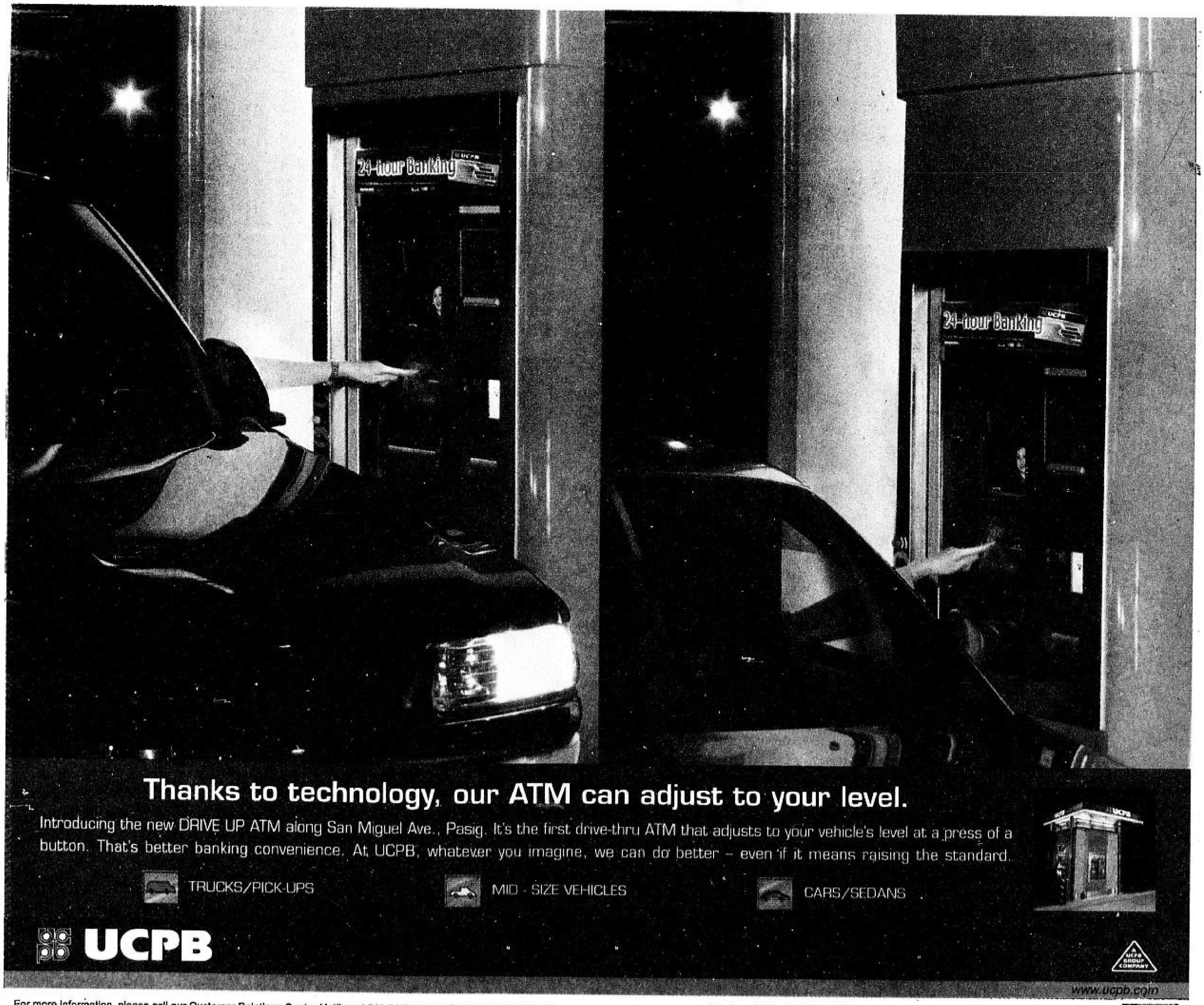
Each has a right to be elected as an officer of the cooperative. These apply to regular, not associate, members of the cooperative. However, both types of members are liable for the debts of the cooperative, but only to the extent of their contributions to the cooperative's share capital.

Like a corporation, the life of a cooperative is neither affected by the death of one of its members nor by the member's sale of his or her share of capital stock.

However, the Cooperative Code prescribes that it can be dissolved "by a majority vote of the board of directors, and by a resolution duly adopted by the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all the members with voting rights at a meeting to be held upon the call of the directors."

Comparing the 4 Forms of Business

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Sole Proprietorship	You are your own boss. You will find it easy to start. You keep the profits You have complete control.	You take all the risks and absorb all the losses. You run the business by yourself. You do most of the jobs. You work longer hours than when you are working for someone else.
Partnership	More money is available. More "heads" contribute to the success of the business. Risks and losses are shared by you and your partner/s. Planning and problem-solving are done by the partners rather than by only one person.	Control of the business is shared and thus is limited. Profits are shared and thus are reduced. Consequences of a poor decision made by one partner are shared by the others. A decision made by one partner is binding on all other partners. Generally, liability for debts incurred by the partnership is unlimited (where each partner is individually and jointly liable for debts and may have to use their personal resources to pay these debts). Property invested in the partnership becomes the joint property of all the owners and is no longer a partner's personal property.
Corporation	Liability for debts of the business is limited to your share capital. Tasks need not be done by the owners (they may hire people more qualified to do the job).	Major decisions cannot be done by the owner(s) without the approval by the board of directors. Corporate and individual profits, in the form of dividends, are taxed separately (double taxation). More expenses are involved. There are more rules and regulations to comply with.
Cooperative	Liability is limited. More people benefit from profits earned by business done by the cooperative. Owners may employ managers with relevant experience and qualifications.	Control of the business is shared. Ideas and decisions made by the board of trustees have to be accepted by the majority of the members of the cooperative.



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Peaceful Ozamiz produces world-class Filipino seamen

By Alberto B. Honasan

MIT was founded in 1965 by the late educators Leonardo R. Maglasang and Adela Abadies Maglasang. Their six sons compose the institution's board of trustees.

OZAMIZ is a peaceful, laid-back city in Misamis Occidental, a province in Northern Mindanao just on the inner mouth of the deceivingly calm Panguil Bay. Ozamiz City was even once voted as the "Most Child-Friendly City" in the country.

This means that it is an ideal place to raise kids, what with all the fresh air, fresh food and the mild climate (there are no typhoons), plus lots of raw land and nature.

The Ozamiznons like their city the way it is—quiet and low key. But in Barangay Bañadero, just on the outskirts, there is a school that is leading the way to meeting the demands of producing quality graduates for the growth of the maritime industry.

The Philippines, being a nation of islands (with a longer coastline than the continental USA), will always have a need for boats and ships. It is also important to be able to produce quality graduates, not only for the local shipping industry but for international companies as well.

The top maritime institution in Ozamiz is the Misamis Institute of Technology (MIT), founded in 1965 by the late educators Leonardo R. Maglasang and Adela Abadies Maglasang of Ozamiz City.

Their six sons, Architect Octavio A. Maglasang, Engineers Manuel A. Maglasang, Galileo A. Maglasang and Allan A. Maglasang, Chief Mate Raul A. Maglasang and Capt. Rene A. Maglasang compose the institution's board of trustees.

They run the show, with each assuming the post of president as decided by the board of directors for a term of three years. One of them is likewise chosen as president of the Zamboanga del Sur Maritime Institute of Technology in Pagadian City, the MIT's sister school.

The MIT with its complete array of training equipment and facilities—which includes its own training ship, the M/V Nardel, named after Leonardo and Adela—has been ranked as the country's leading maritime school by the Commission on Higher Education in coordination with the International Maritime Organization.

The school is also ranked 8th in the world according to the DNV (Det Norske Veritas), the world overseeing body for the Development of Maritime Training and Education.

As if this was not enough, the MIT, through the efforts of Rene as the MIT's Maritime Training Center director and his brother, Manuel, the Globans Program was established which produced maritime graduates for Filnormaris, a Filipino-Norwegian "cooperation" with a Norwegian company co-sponsoring the program.

Some time later, a Pilot Class Program was initiated. It was eventually integrated with the regular MIT course offerings.

Eventually, the Project Alpha Program took the place of the Globans Project, as more companies started to hire MIT Maritime graduates.

As an institution producing maritime graduates for international and local companies, the MIT is on a level comparable to the Philippine Military Academy, the Philippine National Police Academy and the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy.

It is a military school in the true sense with the graduates getting commissioned by the Philippine Navy upon graduation. The cadets also have jobs waiting for them with the International Shipping Companies that have invested in the educational expenses of the cadets beginning in the 2nd year of their four-year training program.

Credit for this feat goes to Captain Maglasang.

"The overseas contract workers are the biggest dollar earners of our country and of all of them, the seamen/seafarers are in the top bracket," he says. "If that's not helping the country, then what is?"

Captain Maglasang graduated from the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy with a degree in Associate in Marine Transportation and BS Marine Transportation at the University of Cebu in 1980.

He is married to the former Marilyn Gingoyon and they have four children. In fact, their eldest son, Alistair, is due back to the MIT for this school year, his last year in the program as a first class cadet, having gone through his onboard apprenticeship with UPL/Shell Tanker Phils.

"Skipper," as Captain Maglasang is addressed, gives first-time acquaintances the impression that he runs the school as a captain would run his ship—flexible, resilient and relaxed.

As the current president, he is a member of the board of trustees and is the driving force of the Project Alpha Program. He is the head of a tight staff, referred to as the Project Alpha Training Directorate. This directorate handles the specific training needs of the Project Alpha Cadets.

The skipper recognized the need for programs that produce confident manpower for international and local shipping. The proof is there. The numbers of companies that are interested in these future deck and engine officers have steadily increased.

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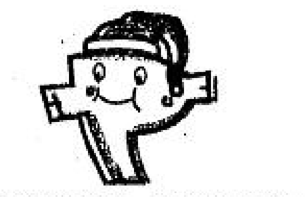

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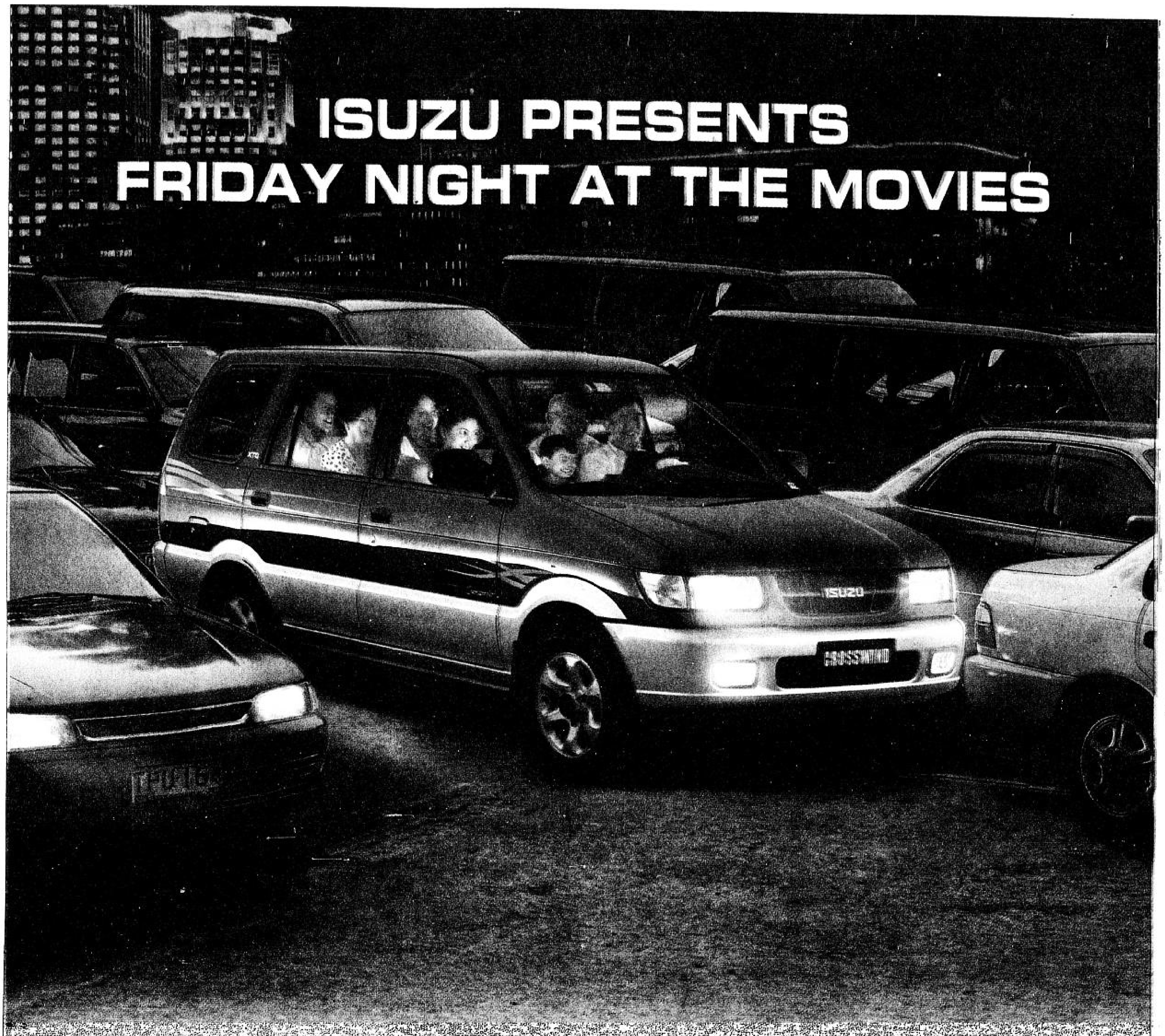

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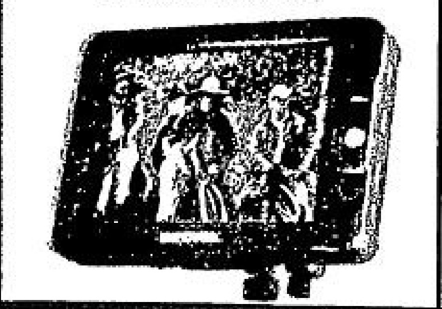

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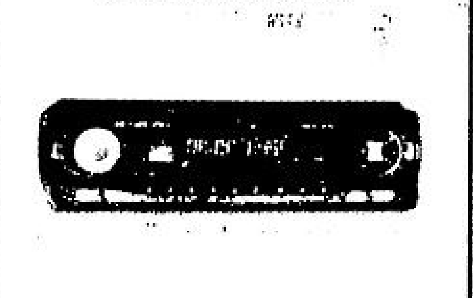

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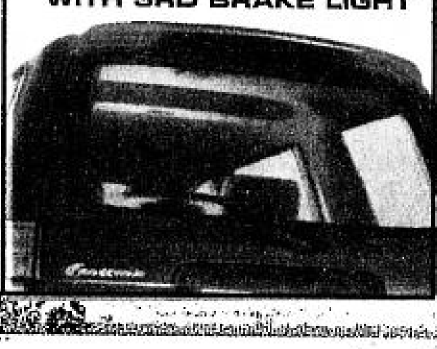

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1531, Series of 2001

Arrive fresh for your meeting by paying for a Spacebed

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

SINGAPORE Airlines, one of the most profitable airlines operating in Asia, is set to strengthen its hold on the market for business travelers with the unveiling of its new cabin and seat designs in the Raffles Class.

The piece de resistance is the Spacebed, the state-of-the art seat that will be the widest and longest business class bed in the market. With armrests that can be recessed easily, the Spacebed is about 8 inches wider than any business class seat or bed.

SIA claims that the seat cushion for the Spacebed was developed for the US space agency Nasa and conforms with the contours of the passenger's body, thus, providing maximum comfort especially for long haul flights.

Raffles Class guests will get a taste of SIA's new pride and joy by November when the first retrofitted B747 Megatop flies the Singapore-London route. Sunday Biz provides here the first sneak peak into the Spacebeds that Filipino travelers can use for their flights to London.

SIA earmarked $100 million to be spent over 12 months to complete the renovations on 45 Boeing 747 Megatops and Boeing 777-200 extended range aircraft serving Europe, North America, Asia and Australia.

The Raffles Class, named after Singapore's founder Sir Stamford Raffles, will have fewer seats, from 58 to 50, to make way for the Spacebeds that are 78 inches long when fully extended.

The beds also come with electrical foot and leg rests, lumbar support and adjustable headrests, discreet personal screens and private storage space. There are also built-in power systems to allow travelers to continue working throughout their flight.

Complementing the new seats are the improvements in the cuisine and the entertainment systems.

Award-winning chefs of different persuasions were brought together to come up with a combination of international and local delicacies to suit the taste of these discriminating travelers. Guests can even pre order their favorite dish at least 24 hours before their flight.

To complete the meal, Raffles Class customers now have a wider selection of beverages, including premium coffee brews like Brazil Santos Bourbon, Colombian Supremo and Kenyan AA.

For the entertainment, SIA would install new generation inflight entertainment system, which offers a choice of 40 movies and short features and 50 games on 10.4-inch high resolution monitors.

These features further enhances the feeling of exclusivity in the Raffles Class, which is already recognized the world over for its service and amenities.

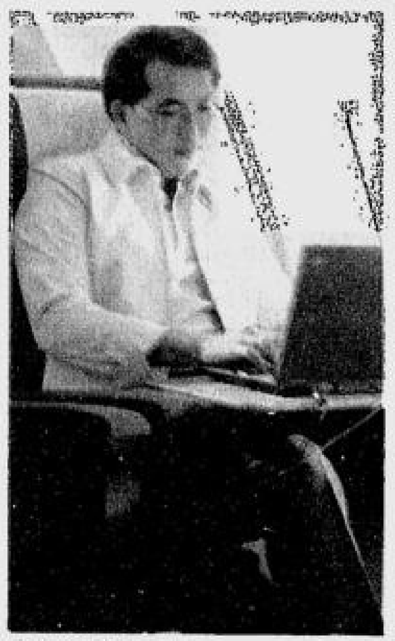
Designed by world-famous design house Givenchy, it creates an atmosphere of sophistication and class 30,000 feet in the air. Givenchy also designed the soft, woolen blankets aboard the flight and provided some of the toiletries.

SIA senior executive vice president Michael Tan says the focus of these developments is to provide a longer, more comfortable and stylish business class product, allowing frequent business travelers to arrive fresh and ready to work.

"Today's business person is often rushing from meeting to meeting, sometimes thousands of miles apart. They want to arrive in good shape, refreshed and ready to go. With its unique design, the Spacebed will offer comfort for our long haul Raffles Class customers," Tan adds

WITH more non-stop flights over long distances, seat/beds with the latest technological features are becoming essential for the customer who wishes to work, sleep or simply relax.

WITH armrests that can be recessed easily, the Spacebed is up to 8 inches wider than any business class seat or bed.



A NEW AC power system built into the Spacebed allows customers to send and receive e-mail and browse the Internet on their laptops using a normal power cord.

WHEN fully extended, the Spacebed is the longest business class bed in the sky

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RED CROSS

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Longganisang Lucban: Profits in bunches

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCBAN, Quezon—What began as an alternative solution to the lack of refrigerators to preserve leftover bits and pieces of meat sold in the market has grown into a steady viable commercial venture for business-minded Lucbanins.

And in this cool and breezy town on the slopes of mystical Mt. Banahaw, the morning mountain scent is often tinged with the tempting aroma of homemade sausages called *longganisa.*

Longganisa is a delectable mixture of ground pork and assorted ingredients of diced garlic, crushed pepper, onions and oregano extract stuffed inside dried pig intestines.

Chains of reddish sausages adorn stalls in Lucban's public market. Outside houses along the narrow streets, they are hung in bunches from bamboo poles for curing.

"*Longganisa* sent us all to college," Rimberto Veloso, 41, said as he arranges bunches of the native sausage on a bamboo pole near the ceiling of his house at the back of the Saint Louise the Bishop parish church.

Veloso, an electrical engineer by profession and one of the town's several self-made entrepreneurs involved in the trade, said *longganisa* making as a business venture started during the '50s.

"When my father was still a bachelor in the early '50s, he used to be one of the helpers of a meat vendor with a stall in the public market. The leftover meat used to be a problem then, especially finding a place to store it," he recalled.

"Owning a refrigerator then was still a luxury," he said.

"So when my father decided to venture in his own meat business, he was also confronted with the same predicament—where to store the unsold meat."

THE TOWN'S pride and livelihood.

Veloso's father Porfirio, more popularly known in the town as "Eker" the *longganisa* maker, thought of producing the native sausage in commercial quantity, using leftover pork bits.

'Right' recipe, technique

Veloso said an old meat vendor gave his father the recipe and the "right technique" in making the best-tasting *longganisa.*

"I'm proud to say that my father started the *longganisa* trade here in Lucban," Rimberto said. He can still recall his father's early struggle to stand on his own with the help of her wife and their brood of four.

But the history of native *longganisa* making dates back to 1739.

Based on accounts of the Lucban Historical Committee, one Capt. Santiago Oracion and a certain Juan Suarez, a native Lucbanin who loved cooking, boarded a galleon and headed for Acapulco, Mexico.

There, Suarez became interested in the processing of "Chorizo de Bilbao."

When he returned, he tried to imitate the sausage preparation using local ingredients. The mixture was stuffed in tubings made of banana and *hagikhik* leaves until the material eventually evolved into the present dried pig intestines.

Linda Abuel, Veloso's aunt, recalled how she used to help Eker and his wife during the early years of the venture. "It was only Eker at that time who was involved in the *longganisa* business here. I used to help the couple tie the sausage in both ends with *buntal* fiber."

Brand recall

Even after their death, the "Eker and Ely's" brand is still etched in the product, which their son now sells to as far as Manila and neighboring provinces in Southern Tagalog and even in the United States.

"Whenever *balikbayans* arrive from the US, they can possibly forget their plane tickets in going back but not the *longganisa* that we meticulously pack for them," Veloso proudly said.

The other Veloso children are all professionals.

The eldest, Andres Bayani, is also an electrical engineer; Felix, the third, is now a wandering mariner; and the youngest, Purificacion, is a law graduate and now based in Germany.

Veloso concentrated on how to further develop the business left by his parents.

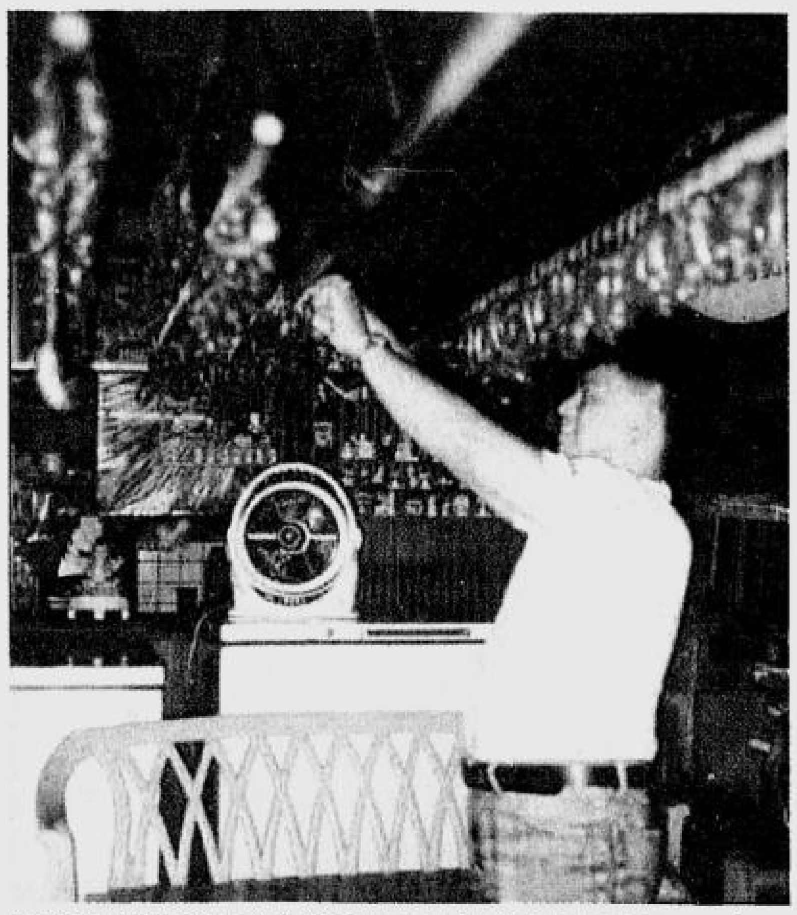
He disclosed that there is basically no secret ingredient in *longganisa* making.

Trade secret

"But one thing that we can be proud of our products is that we never use *vetsin* (MSG or monosodium glutamate). That's the trade secret of our *longganisa*, which our father passed on to us. He was very strict on this matter," he said.

"According to him, the chemical only tampers the natural aroma and flavor of the sausage. *Vetsin* is a big no-no in our *longganisa.*"

The second-generation *longganisa* producer admitted that even with the ups and downs of the country's economy, the Lucban *longganisa* industry would still survive.



PROPRIETOR Rimberto Veloso inspects the freshly made longganisa.

"The sale remains stable. Maybe, it could be attributed to the *longganisa's* distinct taste that has long been part of the country's native cuisine. Try to imagine a native breakfast without *longganisang* Lucban as part of the menu. The fried rice on the table or even a piece of hot *pandesal* is not complete without *longganisa* dipped in hot and spicy vinegar. The perpetual picture of that dining table scenario helps us survive," Veloso explained.

"Whenever there are increases in the prices of meat and ingredients in the market, we just make a corresponding reasonable price adjustment. Just like the legacy left to us by our father, we want our product to be still affordable to the common *tao,*" he said.

Veloso is against the formation of a local *longganisa* traders' association because most often, he said, "whoever will be elected president of the town's *longganisa* makers only ends up after price monopolization of the product."

Open competition

"I want to maintain the price competition open for the benefit of the consumers. The dynamics of free trade should remain. Let the quality of the products and the pricing decide for the consumers," he said.

He sells large *longganisa* (six inches long) at P100 per dozen, while the smaller one is pegged at half the price.

"That's far from the price of my father. I remember we sold our much bigger *longganisa* then at only P10 to P15 per dozen," Veloso said.

Having been a pioneering part of the local *longganisa* trade, he related how the present shape of the *longganisa* piece evolved from its former dangling U-shape to its present "straight" form.

"One customer of a restaurant in Lucena City in front of a Manila-bound bus terminal suggested that we tie the *longganisa* in bunches of dozens for easy display. That started it all, which probably some *longganisa* makers here do not even know," he claimed.

His stewardship of the family venture presently employs eight to 10 workers for *longganisa* production alone. "I maintain nine more workers for my meat stall in the market."

However, he stressed that unlike the original intention of his father, his production no longer relied on leftover bits and pieces of meat from his market stall.

"I always maintain a ready supply of quality pork for my sausage production. Besides, I now have at least two chest freezers and a big refrigerator for my meat storage," Veloso said.

But despite the prodding, he still did not disclose the daily volume of his sausage production.

"The financial aspect of the business is part of the trade secret. The Bureau of Internal Revenue examiner might run after me," he said laughing.

"I can safely say that thousands of *longganisa* pieces are being produced here regularly. It is much more during the Maytime festival where tourists abound in the locality," the father of two admitted.

"Both of my children already knew the 'ins' and 'outs' of the trade."

Orders by phone

He proudly disclosed that Fritz Gaston, a popular professional basketball player, is a regular customer.

"He just places his order by phone, usually up to a hundred dozens in one ordering alone, which we send to him through a Manila-bound bus. Later, he would pick the goods at the bus terminal. The corresponding payment is usually through the ATM banking," Veloso said.

Brimming with confidence in the quality and distinct taste of his product, he said he was never bothered by the proliferation of different kinds of native sausages from Central Luzon that have invaded the local market.

"They can never imitate or duplicate the phenomenon created by *longganisang* Lucban. Only the Lucbanin can, although some have not even become successful," he claimed.

"Besides, Lucban's *longganisa* is already niched in the country's culinary history. Always, there will be craving and stomach waiting to be fulfilled," Veloso said.

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Online shopping helps OFWs stay connected to home

ONLINE shopping will continue to grow.

BANKS and remittance centers have long discovered the overseas Filipinos market. Now, e-businesses such as shopping websites are joining the fray for OFW dollars. And with good cause: last year, 5 million OFWs contributed over $6 billion in remittances to the country's economy.

Teodoro K. Limcaoco, chief operating officer of myAyala.com, relates that overseas Filipinos are now among the most loyal customers of this e-commerce site that offers online over 4,000 items from appliances to *pasalubong*. The country's first shopping website is a joint venture between Ayala Land Inc., the country's premier property developer, and iAyala Co. Inc., the information technology arm of Ayala Corp.

Limcaoco notes that two-thirds of all purchases from myAyala.com are made by Filipinos living in the United States, followed by those in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore, countries where high-earning Filipinos have access to cheap and fast Internet connection. With 75 brand-name merchants and a wide range of products at competitive prices, myAyala.com offers them the convenience and security of one-stop online shopping. Many order local videos and CDs for themselves as a way to stay in touch with the Philippines. They also prefer to buy children's and maternity clothes at myAyala.com's local merchants because the sizes fit better than those sold abroad.

Virtual 'pasalubong'

More important, the website allows OFWs to send gifts to their families back home. The most popular buys are flowers, followed by books, videos and, surprisingly, grocery items such as corned beef and potato chips, products readily available in local supermarkets. High-ticket products—such as appliances, computers and cell phones—comprise the most valuable orders from Filipinos abroad.

Limcaoco observes: "Instead of sending a *balikbayan* box through a friend or UPS, they just visit the site, usually in the comfort of their home, place a couple of orders and it's done. It comes off much cheaper than buying in their city and then shipping it."

But more than being a shopping website, he continues, myAyala.com has helped OFWs stay connected to their loved ones. Some customers regularly send flowers to sweethearts in the Philippines or order beer party packs for their *barkadas*. As a value added service, the website lets shoppers give special instructions for their purchase, such as having it delivered on a specific date or writing a special message to go with the gift. Says Limcaoco: "We want to make the receiver feel as if it was personally sent to him or her."

Booming business

If anything can be gleaned from the warm reception of myAyala.com among overseas Filipinos, it may be that online shopping will continue to grow. Several studies seem to confirm this, showing that the number of Internet shoppers have increased by at least 50 percent over the past year. More people have also expressed the intention to shop online.

"Online shopping is changing the way we live in ways we never thought possible," says Limcaoco. For now, myAyala.com has the lead among Filipino shopping websites, a position it intends to keep by staying attuned to the needs of its customers. Its cinema ticketing unit, Sureseats.com, has already taken advantage of the texting boom by offering cinema schedules and ticket reservations through mobile phones. However, the shopping website has no plans of exploiting the wireless trend further. "The technology is still limited. You can't shop through your cell phone because short messaging is not secure and, besides, it has poor graphics," notes Limcaoco.

Still, Limcaoco believes that as information and communications technology develops in the Philippines, more Filipinos here will have access to the Internet and thus experience the benefits of e-commerce. When that time comes, it will definitely boost the online shopping industry.

With such a robust outlook for Filipino shopping websites, will they ever experience the boom of their foreign counterparts? "It will be a while before we become an Amazon," Limcaoco admits. But one thing is for sure, he says, myAyala.com is here to stay.

MOVEMENTS

STI elects new board members

LEADING information technology educational institution STI elected a new board of directors during its annual stockholders meeting held recently at the Manila Polo Club.

Reelected as STI chairman was Eusebio Tanco, also chairman of Philippine First Insurance Inc. A fresh face in the 11-man board is lawyer Antonio Carpio, senior partner at the Caprio Villaraza and Cruz Law offices.

Also among the newly elected STI board members was One Virtual Corp. chairman and CEO Mel Velarde. Velarde has made significant contributions in the broadcasting, telecommunications and the information technology sectors before establishing One Virtual.

Other new members in the board are Angping and Associates Securities chairman Jerry Angping, Wilfredo Racadio of All Asia Capital Managers Inc. and Guillermo Batac Jr., president of STI College-Edsa Crossing.

Keeping their STI board seats are STI president Chito Salazar, Ramon Abaya of Cagayan Electric Power and Light Co., Glicerio Sicat of Inter-Pacific Capital Phils. Corp., Herman Gamboa of Data Center Design Corp. and Systems Standards Inc. chair Augusto Lagman.

Shangri-La has new F&B exec

SVENSSON

MAKATI Shangri-La announces the appointment of Krister Svensson as executive assistant manager for food and beverage.

The hotelier brings with him a wealth of experience having worked in various capacities for major hotel chains prior to joining the Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts in 1995.

Before his Makati Shangri-La assignment, Svensson was posted in Surabaya in Indonesia, Pudong in China and Penang in Malaysia.

As EAM, Svensson will oversee Makati Shangri-La's restaurant, kitchens, catering and private dining operations.

Accra law has new associates

NEW lawyers who were recently admitted to the Philippine Bar were hired as associates of the Abello, Concepcion, Regala & Cruz. Leading the new batch is Arvin Dexter M. Lopoz, who placed 2nd in the 2000 Bar examinations.

Lopoz is presently assigned to the Accralaw Davao City branch.

Other new associates are: Juan Edgardo M. Angara, Adrian L. Apostol, Arturo G. Asuncion, Chrysilla Carissa Bautista, Yodel Deloso, Margaret Domingo, Jose Victor Giongco, Jose Absalom Jocom Jr., Larcy Grace Jocson, Jason Hatem Ong, Jose A. Ramos Jr. and Ma. Caridad N. San Jose.

How much to put up a motorshow?

THINK cars and you instantly associate it with men, with their need for speed and velocity, with their passion for roaring sports cars and mean dream machines, with their arduous love for motorsports.

It's a man's world alright, but as far as Marisa D. Nallana is concerned, cars and automotive are her realm too, at least since 12 years ago. Nallana is the prime mover of "Motorshow International," the country's biggest and longest-running auto and cycle show that is scheduled on Oct. 3-7, at the World Trade Center, Pasay City, organized by Philippine Exhibits and Themeparks Corp. (Petco).

For Nallana, organizing the Motorshow has already become as familiar as steering her own car through metro traffic. Twelve years ago, the car and cycle show was a fledgling and struggling venue that begged for recognition and acceptance. "It was like the British music scene before the Beatles, or the Chicago stadium before Michael Jordan and it isn't hard to see why," Nallana analogizes.

Around that time, the Philippine automotive industry had just come out of the mire. The political and economic crisis had driven major car manufacturers out of the country. With the national economy taking a dive faster than a Corvette could accelerate from 0 to 60, no sane company wanted to do business here. The car industry became moribund, if not dead. In the latter part of the '80s, a few carmakers started staging a comeback in the local market, all of them Japanese, notably Nissan, Toyota and Mitsubishi. And yet, the industry could hardly be described as having recovered.

The concept of a Motorshow International can be traced to what was then known as the Transportation Show (Transhow) started in 1981 in the then Philcite as a trade fair for the air, land and sea transport in-

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2. Fill out the raffle coupon on the sticker attached on the box with your name, address, and telephone/mobile phone number. Indicate your school/company name and address, as well as the complete name and address of store where the hp Inkjet/hp Laserjet print cartridge was purchased. Complete the statement by filling in the blanks. Then affix your signature to complete the form. Incomplete entries will be disqualified.
3. Cut out the raffle stub portion as directed (for hp Inkjet print cartridges, the entire box will serve as the entry) and drop entries in any of the Print Your Way to a Million drop boxes located in all National Bookstores nationwide and selected hp dealers in GMA/Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao. All drop boxes will be labeled per area.
4. A total of four (4) raffle draws will be held every other week - two (2) draws per grouping and one (1) Grand Draw at the Publicis Dialog Office: 10/F IBM Plaza, Ave. Eastwood City Cyber Park, E Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bagumbayan, Quezon City at 3PM. All non-winning entries of the preliminary draws will automatically be included in the Grand Draw.

Promo period is from September18 up to November 23, 2001

PRELIMINARY RAFFLE DRAWS

RAFFLE DRAW DATE	AREA COVERAGE	DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES	PRIZES
1st Raffle Draw October 3, 2001	GMA/ Luzon	September 30, 2001	3 winners of P50,000 each 35 winners of 1 hp calculator
2nd Raffle Draw October 17, 2001	Visayas/ Mindanao	October 12, 2001	2 winners of P50,000 each 15 winners of 1 hp calculator
3rd Raffle Draw October 31, 2001	GMA/ Luzon	October 26, 2001	3 winners of P50,000 each 35 winners of 1 hp calculator 1 winner of Jornada PDA 1 winner of Nokia 6210 1 winner of hp CD Writer
4th Raffle Draw November 14, 2001	Visayas/ Mindanao	November 9, 2001	2 winners of P50,000 each 15 winners of 1 hp calculator 1 winner of Jornada PDA 1 winner of Nokia 6210 1 winner of hp CD Writer

GRAND RAFFLE DRAW

November 28, 2001	Nationwide	November 23, 2001	1 winner of P1,000,000.00

A participant can only win once per raffle draw. If participant's name gets drawn more than once, he/she gets the bigger prize at stake for that particular draw date. Winners will be notified via press releases, registered mail and telephone. HP will shoulder 20% withholding tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00. To claim the prize, winners must present at least one (1) valid ID (driver's license, company ID, valid passport, etc.) as well as the registered mail notification. Prizes may be claimed at the hp Head Office: 9/F Rufino Pacific Tower 6784 Ayala Ave., 1229 Makati City, Philippines, from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, Mondays to Fridays only. Look for Jun Juntilla or Betty Bontigao. Provincial winners of calculators can claim their prizes at the Publicis Dialog office specified on the registered mail. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of HEWLETT-PACKARD Philippines, Corp. with prior approval from DTI. All employees of Hewlett-Packard Philippines Corp., its distributors, dealers, resellers, advertising and promotions agencies and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity are not qualified to join.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1389, Series of 2001.

E-roadmap for success for utility firms

ORGANIZATIONS have to continually improve to survive in a rapidly changing environment. An organization can ensure long-term viability and success only if it is able to cope with new customer needs, technology and competition.

In the local utility industry, particularly in the power sector, now is an appropriate time for organizations to assess their capabilities to meet these challenges head-on.

Instead of waiting for dead-end scenarios, utility firms must now prepare for and equip themselves for the imminent entry of competitors, especially now that the Omnibus Power Bill has been signed into law.

One powerful tool that can enable companies to improve and handle change is information systems (IS).

Information Systems have always played a vital role in the modern business organization. Key business functions such as customer service, sales and distribution, marketing, and finance all require information technology (IT) as an underlying foundation.

However, according to Jose Luis Gomez, managing director of Iberpacific, an international information technology consulting firm, because of changing business requirements, process and organizational changes, applications can sprout like islands of IS addressing various functions.

"Integration, the idea that systems are more effective if they can share information, becomes, a key for a truly smooth and successful operation," Gomez said.

This is where the Internet comes in. "Over the years, the Internet has revolutionized the way data are shared, both within and outside the organization. Utility companies can take advantage of Internet technology as they strive to improve in the areas of operational efficiency, business growth, and in building virtual communities," Gomez said.

Recent studies have shown that companies that embark on e-business do so to (a) improve efficiency and cut cost (60 percent); (b) for business growth making use of dormant intangible assets and engaging in diversification efforts (30 percent); and (c) building virtual client and partner communities (10 percent).

But how can a utility company take advantage of the Internet? What are the steps involved in drafting an e-roadmap? Below is a four-step process that can help you transform your organization towards e-business orientation:

A. Realize that the Internet is just a tool

First, organizations have to remember that the Internet is just a technological tool—not an end in itself. It is a tool that can help leverage an organization's core strengths but it can never substitute for core business process re-engineering.

"The core process within the organization must be fixed first in order for everything to run efficiently," Gomez stressed.

B. Understand your business

"The next step involves understanding the business, aligning the organization's strategy and identifying its core strengths and assets," Gomez said. Then the organization has to understand the new technologies, and find out what they can and cannot do for the organization.

"The organization must also look at the risks and limitations that go with these technologies," Gomez explained. .

C. Develop an Internet master plan

Then the organization must be able to formulate a vision, assess business processes and existing IT infrastructure before developing an Internet master plan. To develop an Internet master plan, organizations must remember that priorities must be correctly set. Here is a three-point guideline that companies must take into consideration when developing an Internet master plan:

- Avoide misspending—the process of evaluating and deciding which Internet-based applications to use and develop must never be rushed. A careful study must precede any decision to avoid falling into the trap of misallocating the company's resources.
- Evaluate core competencies—The Internet helps you do better what you do best. You have to honestly assess and pinpoint what your company's traditional strengths are.
- Pursue e-business initiatives related to utilization of traditional strengths—the company must be able to pursue business initiatives that can add value to its traditional strengths. It is not wise to invest in e-business projects that focus on diversified activities immediately, not unless core strengths and supported.

D. Implement your plan

After drafting the Internet master plan comes the implementation phase. "Internet implementations have to be gradual, iterative and selective so they will have the time and liberty to assess its progress and make the necessary adjustment along the way," Gomez said.

Once the company has completely transformed itself and fully taken advantage of Internet technology, what were once "hidden" assets such as knowledge, intellectual properties, customer relationships, network and relationships with partners, and other intangible assets, will become prime assets that would complement the old conventional vertical organizations and physical assets as a source of competitive advantage.

"The organization would then evolve from having used e-information, to utilizing e-commerce applications, to becoming an e-company that relies on Internet technology to perform bigger and bigger portions of its business operations," Gomez concluded.

Spain honors Enrique Zobel

ZOBEL

FOR his work in contributing to the establishment of a world-class tourist playground visited by the rich and famous, businessman Enrique Zobel was recently proclaimed the Adopted Son of San Roque in a formal ceremony at the San Enrique Polo Club in Andalucia, Spain. He is the first foreign businessman in the history of Andalucia given this award.

Zobel is one of five persons this year to be presented with the honor, an award traditionally given to artists or scientists. He is the first businessman to receive such a distinction.

"Truly a trailblazer, Zobel, together with his uncle, Joseph R. McMicking, has established the Center for National Tourism of Sotogrande de Guadiaro," the La Tribuna de Andalucia wrote. "Its exceptional facilities enjoyed by the elite, Sotogrande has attracted tourists from all over the world and has greatly contributed to the prosperity of San Roque. The best planning concepts for tourism in all of Europe were cited to have been employed by Sotogrande."

The secretary general of the municipality of San Roque recognized Zobel as one who "began tourism in San Roque and all of Andalucia." A Filipino citizen born to Spanish parents, Zobel has been a frequent visitor of Spain since childhood. He is known for investments that have initially been considered unthinkable in their time, but have proven to be successful ventures.

Pleasantly surprised at being given the award, Zobel also acknowledged the help McMicking had given him. "All that I have done in this town as a businessman I owe to the apprenticeship and management training I received from my Uncle Joseph McMicking," he said.

During the ceremonies, Zobel's influence was strongly felt when a veteran idea-generator of Guadiaro mentioned that he has created the best technical university that has qualified hundreds of workers in the region. Thanks to Zobel, the workers have become specialists in tourism, in the world of horses and in services.

Publishing . . .

(From page C12)

alties that they had to pay the American authors, or the owners of the American books.

What's more, Filipino students were only getting exposed to American culture and values. This did not sit well with Ernesto who has always been a firm believer in developing a sense of nationalism among students.

The professor and corporate lawyer, and the Ph.D. graduate from Yale, thus, lobbied for what is now known as the Textbook Law. This paved the way for the use of Filipino-authored textbooks in the education sector.

Phoenix Publishing House was incorporated in 1958 and it was the pioneer in publishing Filipino-authored textbooks. The Sibals started with only five people in the payroll. Ernesto continued teaching while Alegria dutifully went to work on her publishing house and retail store from 6:30 in the morning to 8 at night.

Struggle at the start

She welcomed the long hours as she was not really one who felt happy just staying at home and doing nothing, especially as the children were off to school.

They had to work hard, Sibal explained, because it was such a struggle at the start. She said that it took some time before the public and the private schools were convinced that Filipino experts could write books that are as good, if not better, than the American textbooks proliferating in the Philippines.

"We really wanted to excel in the publishing of textbooks because it was part of our effort to help upgrade the standard of education in the country," Sibal said.

Another innovation introduced by Phoenix was the development of teacher's manuals and flowcharts to help teachers make better use of these textbooks. To this day, more than 40 years since the first books were printed, Phoenix continues to conduct training sessions to help teachers improve their vocation.

Phoenix also prides itself on conducting painstaking research to make sure that all the facts presented in the books are accurate. Phoenix also stresses the need for proper proofreading so that no embarrassing misspellings or grammatical errors slip through.

From these efforts came the Reading for Living and Learning Series and then the English Communication Arts Series that are still used by more than half of the elementary private schools.

Phoenix president Lynda Sibal says one of their plans is to improve on their line of textbooks that cover science and math subjects. This is in response to the call of President Macapagal-Arroyo to develop the science and math skills of students.

Proper values

"We also believe that the Phoenix has been patronized all these years because of our efforts to keep prices low and the quality high. It is our way of helping the students and their parents," the younger Sibal explained.

But more important than good pricing, Alegria believes that Phoenix owes its staying power to their values of honesty in doing business.

"That was our motto. We believed that we have to maintain our values because we are in the business of molding children's minds," Alegria said.

Still active in her twilight years, Alegria said she could look back and say to herself that she has done a job well done. Not only did she and her husband send all nine children to post-graduate schools abroad, but they were also able to give fellow Filipinos the chance to make it in the publishing world.

How much . . .

(From page C10)

dustries. Nallana had to steer her group through several obstacles—from a dearth in attendance and sponsors to a lackluster exhibit. "The concept of a car show was all new to the Filipino. There were trade shows and fairs, like tiangges etc, but a car show? If people wanted to see new models, they go to the showrooms of the different car companies but never to one venue. Motorshows are big in Japan or Germany but here, they didn't think a car show in the real sense of the word could be possible," Nallana observes.

But Nallana and her team were not fazed. On its third year, in an attempt to draw more public interest and attendance, Transhow introduced special events to give the exhibit a more relaxed atmosphere. Thus were born features such as the auto exchange, the classic and vintage cars exhibits, slaloms, car clubs, etc. The added attractions proved to be a big crowd drawer and the once staid and formal auto trade exhibit had taken on a distinctive Pinoy face that ordinary Filipinos were able to relate to.

In 1989, Petco, a new company established by Nallana and other partners, gambled to stage a full car show. "It was then dominated by car parts and accessories dealers because of the depressed market for brand new cars. Customers just wanted to upgrade their cars and not buy new ones. Modified and second-hand car dealers were also active participants."

Suffice it to say, this car show was a big risk, considering that it was very much dependent on the pervading economic standing of the country. But Nallana knew there was a time and day for her baby. "That came in 1992 when a new President was sworn in and major car assemblers, who have long been watching from the sidelines, took the promise of a new economic prosperity as a signal and literally came in droves to Motorshow," Nallana recalls.

Since then, Motorshow has laid claim to truly being the country's premiere auto show, a car buff's Disneyland, so to speak and much-awaited event for car and accessories companies, service providers and many more. It is where new models are launched and where car clubs like the Mini Car Club, Volkswagen Car Club, Classic Car Club, Mercedes Benz Club etc. converge to showcase their babies.

In 1997, when they began using the World Trade Center as the venue, it was a clearer indication that the local automotive industry had come of age to take on competition from giant multinational corporations which display wholly imported luxury cars, vans and sport utility vehicles during the show.

Million-peso business

Unlike other trade shows, a Motorshow takes about a year to set up. Abroad, it's two years minimum.

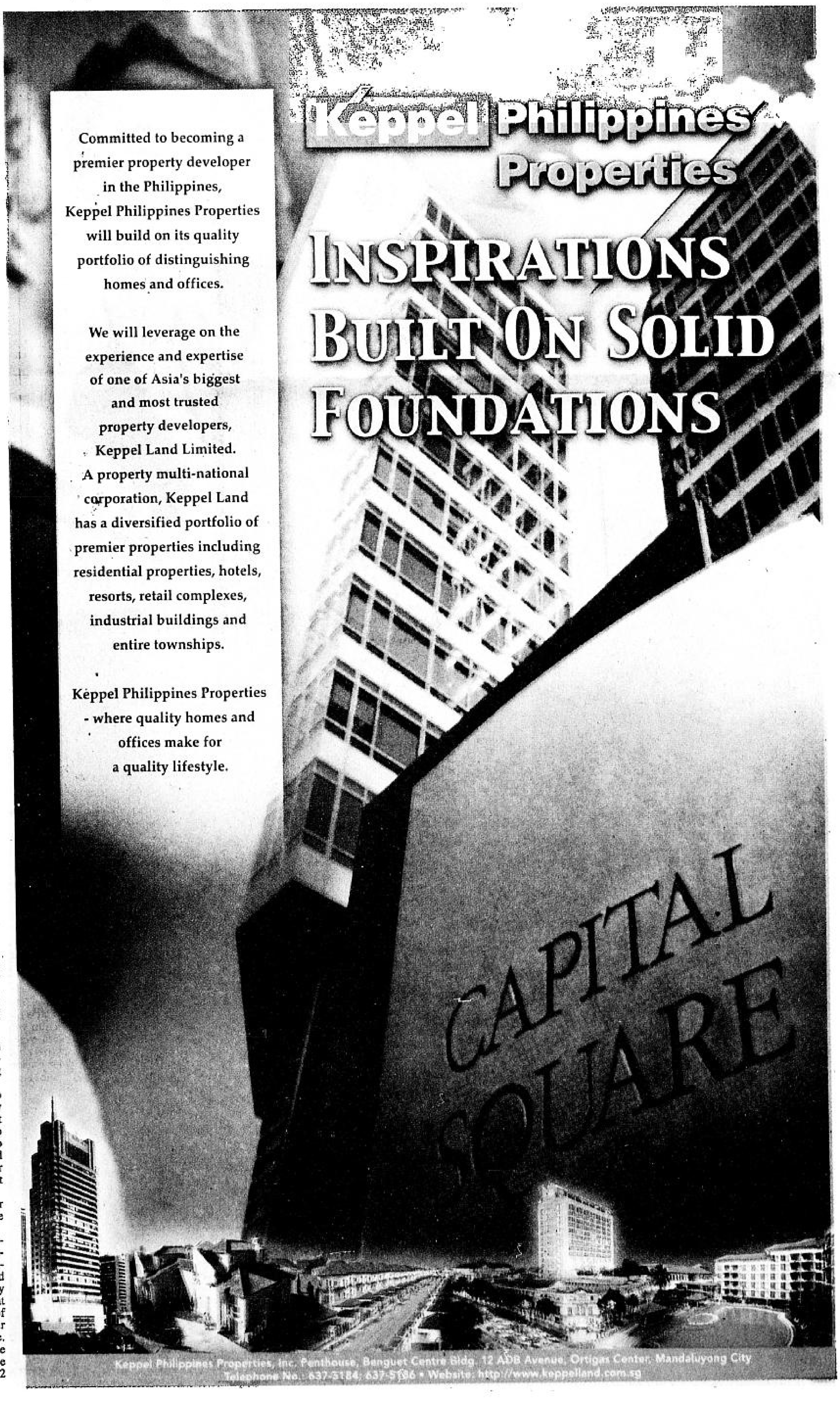
"And you need at least P5 million to pull it off. Otherwise, it will just be another one of those trade fairs," Nallana offers.

This year, despite the downturn in worldwide economy, Nallana is hopeful that the multimillion-peso motoring industry will have a show of force.

"Cars/ transport are a neccessity, no longer a luxury. It is a part of our daily life. What we are trying to say at Motorshow is that despite the not so good business climate, we have no other recourse but to continue and move on. We cannot stop selling nor stop doing business until things get better. It might be too late."

In fact for this year's show, major car companies like Jaguar Philippines will be joining to showcase their latest models.

"In a way, trade shows and exhibits in the Philippine context are relatively new. The country's biggest industries in fact do not have established trade shows of their own and only lately have there been visible signs that industries had realized the value of clustering, of putting together their products and services to showcase. Against this backdrop, the automotive industry is way ahead because we have been staging the Motorshow for 12 years now," explains Nallana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Publishing pioneer reads back her life and says, 'Well done'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SIBAL at 89

PAMPANGA lass Alegria Y. Rodriguez, who is now well on her way to celebrating her 89th birthday, can be referred to as one of the earliest proponents of women's liberation in the country.

When almost every other woman in her generation was content to just stay home and take care of the husband and the kids, she was filled with dreams to put up her own business.

Her desire to do well in business burned despite having fulfilled her uncle's request for her to be a dentist. Not just an ordinary dentist, but a magna cum laude graduate from the Centro Escolar University. She even went on to teach at the CEU for a while.

She also kept her ambition alive even after she married lawyer Ernesto Sibal at 24 and gave birth to nine children, a little bit short of her husband's goal of having a dozen little Sibals. (He loved the movie "Cheaper by the Dozen.")

Then World War II broke out. It brought the city to its knees, but it was also the golden opportunity that Rodriguez was waiting for so long to finally put up her business.

Humble beginnings

She saw the oppoftunity when the Japanese who occupied the Sibal family residence in New Manila left after the war. They left behind office supplies including bond paper, toilet paper and soap.

She asked a cousin who had a furniture store on Avenida, Rizal (now Rizal Avenue) if she could have a stand at the front of the store to sell her wares. Since business was slow anyway just after the war, they agreed on the modest rent. When stocks left by the Japanese were sold out, she looked around for other stores.

Sibal told the INQUIRER that she was forced to look for extra income for the family as her husband's salary as a law professor at the University of the Philippines was no longer enough to feed and clothe nine growing children.

From small grocery items, Sibal diversified her wares to include second-hand books. Over the years the little stand grew until it occupied the greater part of the store of her cousin and books became one of the best sellers.

As the business grew, she realized that she had to improve the operations so she enlisted the help of her husband to organize the operations. Thus, was born the little company known as Alemar's—Ale for Alegria and Mar because her daughters were all named Maria.

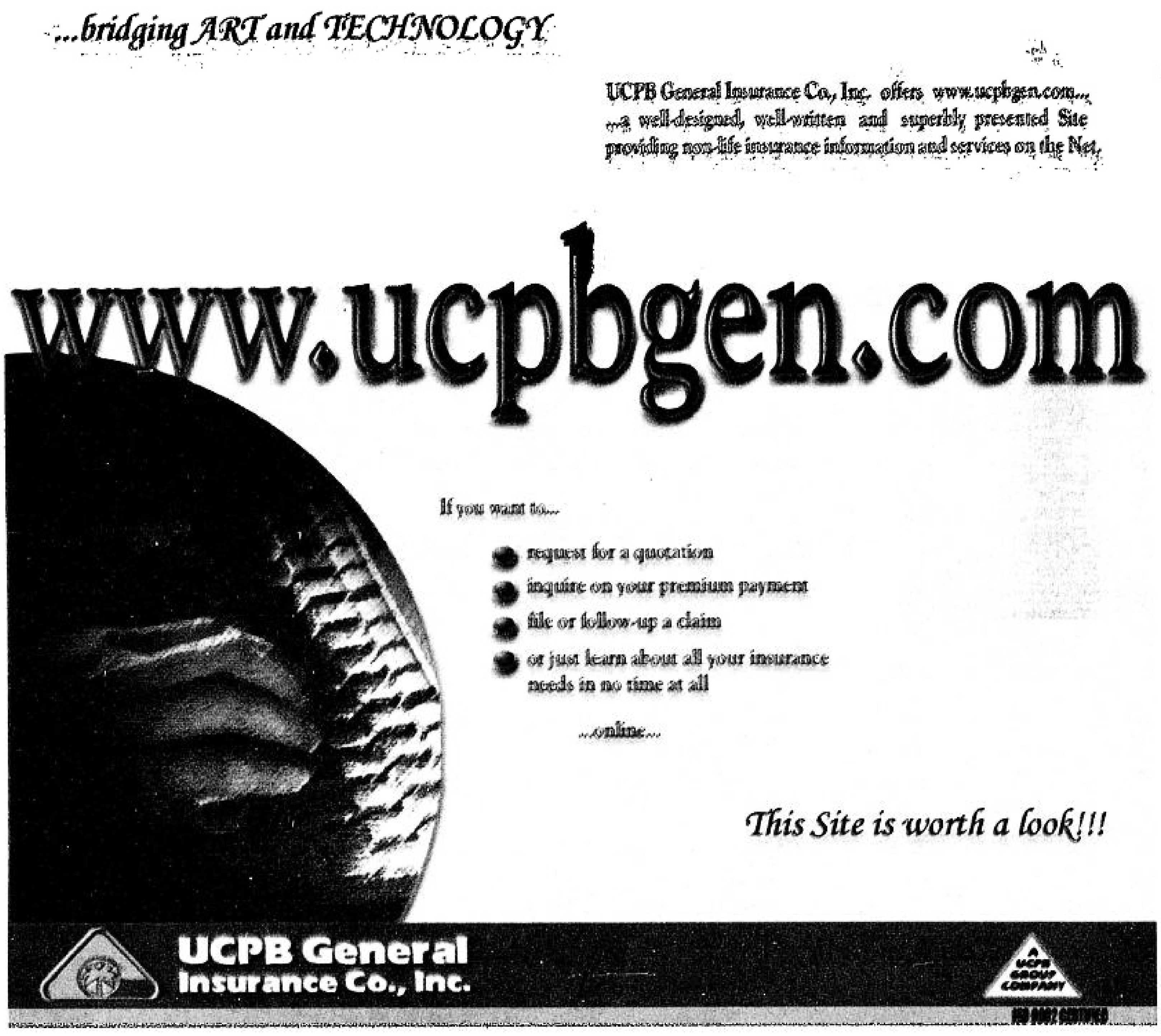
Phoenix Publishing

Alemar's was the logical next step for her retail operations. There was a time when it was one of the biggest retail stores in the country. But it was in publishing that the Sibal couple found their true calling.

In time, they closed the Alemar's retail stores and concentrated on publishing.

They got into the business when Alegria saw great opportunities in printing. They bought a printing press and started reprinting American textbooks. They were involved in it for several years until costs started going up because of the roy-

PUBLISHING/ C11



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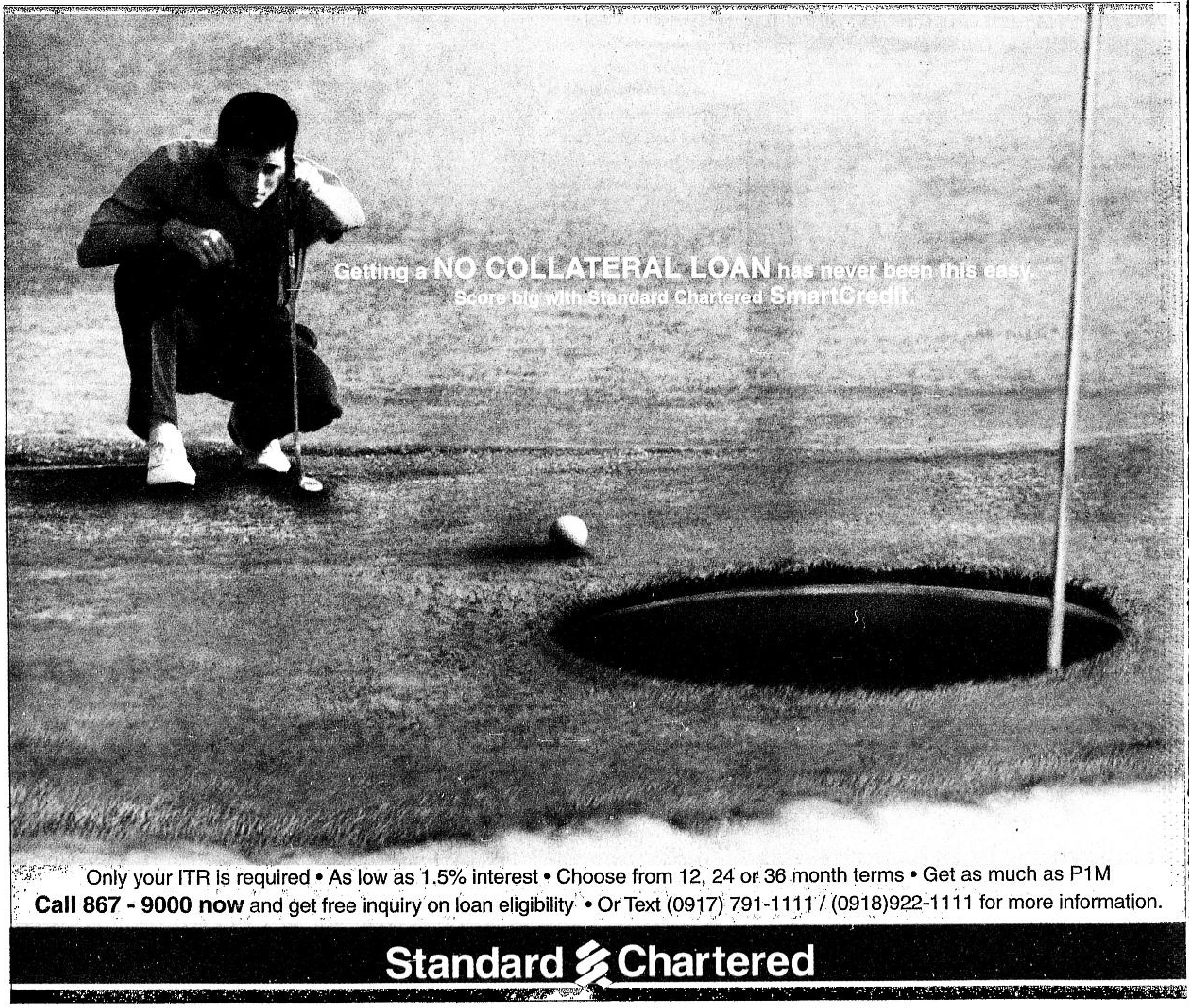

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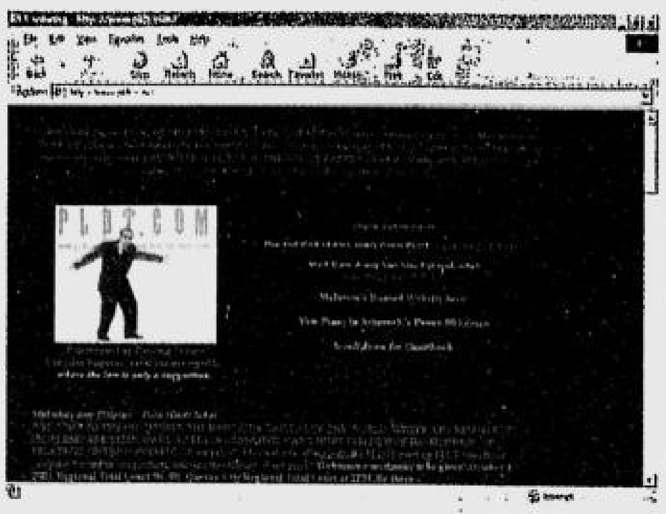
INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

PLDT.com webmaster set to testify

By JOEY G. ALARILLA



TWO years after telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) filed a P1.35-million lawsuit against him, PLDT.com webmaster Gerry Kaimo will finally take the witness stand on Monday, Oct. 1 in a landmark domain name dispute case.

"It's my turn to let the court know what PLDT.com is about," Kaimo said in an interview, adding that he was glad with the court decision to allow him to testify.

Kaimo explained that PLDT lawyers had filed a motion not to allow Kaimo's testimony during the scheduled Sept. 10 hearing, which the webmaster of the satirical site was unable to attend due to illness.

The Quezon City Regional Trial Court (QC RTC) Branch 90, however, denied the motion. PLDT has alleged that Kaimo has infringed on PLDT's trademark and has engaged in unfair competition by using the PLDT trade name on Kaimo's website at www.pldt.com. The PLDT website is at www.pldt.com.ph. The suit is considered a landmark case in domain name disputes in the Philippines.

Kaimo said that aside from his testimony, the defense would also eventually present as many as five witnesses, whom he declined to name.

Kaimo admitted that the long case has taken its toll on him, saying that it has been very expensive for him.

"I have to keep going, however. That's what keeps me going, knowing that I'm fighting for something," Kaimo said.

Named co-defendant in the case is the consumer advocacy group, Philippine League for Democratic Telecommunications Inc. (PLDTI). PLDTI has been a longtime opponent of the plan of PLDT and other carriers to implement local phone metering.

Recently, PLDTI also filed a temporary restraining order at the QC RTC Branch 216 to prevent Globe Telecom, Smart Communications Inc. and other cellular phone network operators from reducing the free SMS (short message service, popularly known locally as text messaging) allocations for their prepaid and postpaid subscribers. The court eventually dismissed the case against the mobile phone operators.

Kaimo said that whatever would be the court decision, PLDT vs PLDT.com would definitely be a landmark case in the Philippines. He said that while much has changed in the past two years, the same arguments and evidence will still be used.

"In terms of presentation of evidence, the site (PLDT.com) has undergone a lot of change. The Internet itself has changed a lot. But we're using the evidence they (PLDT) presented and we'll be presenting the same evidence. We'll just give a broader perspective on what PLDT.com is," Kaimo said.

A mobile phone named Steffi

By JOEY G. ALARILLA

REVIEW

I'VE had a fling for a number of weeks now. That is, with a colorful mobile phone scheduled to become commercially available this October.

I'm talking about the C45, the latest phone from Siemens AG. Along with over a hundred other Asian and European journalists, I received a working version of the new mobile during the global C45 preview in Istanbul.

The box came with a note from Siemens, reminding us that "the handsets you have received are very near to the final versions that will be sold across Europe and Asia in the next few weeks. Please take into consideration when reviewing this product that this is not the final version."

No word yet on the suggested retail price, but Siemens officials are saying it's likely to be in the same range as the C35.

My C45's named Steffi—yes, after the German tennis great Steffi Graf, whom I happen to adore.

I also adore this Steffi, though frankly I still like the feel of Emmy, my "ruggedized" (or, as some would put it, "built-for-toughness") Siemens M35. I dunno—it just still feels better when I grip the squarish M35 than when I hold the rounded curves of Steffi.

Steffi attracts a lot of attention because of her small size—her vital stats are 109-46-23 (that is, LxWxH in millimeters) and she weighs 107 grams. She'd be even lighter if she had a lithium ion battery rather than an NiMH (nickel metal hydride) one.

Standby time is up to 200 hours on the standard battery, while talk time is up to five hours. By the way, the charger that comes with the C45 is a lot more powerful than the ones for previous Siemens models such as the C25, C35 and M35.

A Siemens tech guy in Istanbul told me that you could still use this new charger for the older phones, but he wouldn't recommend it since battery performance might suffer. You can fully charge the C45 in less than two hours.

One thing I have to admit is that Steffi has the looks. A number of women, in fact, have told me that she's "cute" and people of all genders have said that the phone is cool.

Cool, of course, was an adjective you didn't associate with Siemens just a few years ago. Remember all those bricks and shoeboxes they once called mobile phones? Sure, Siemens has always been known for great engineering and high-quality products, but not for design and coolness.

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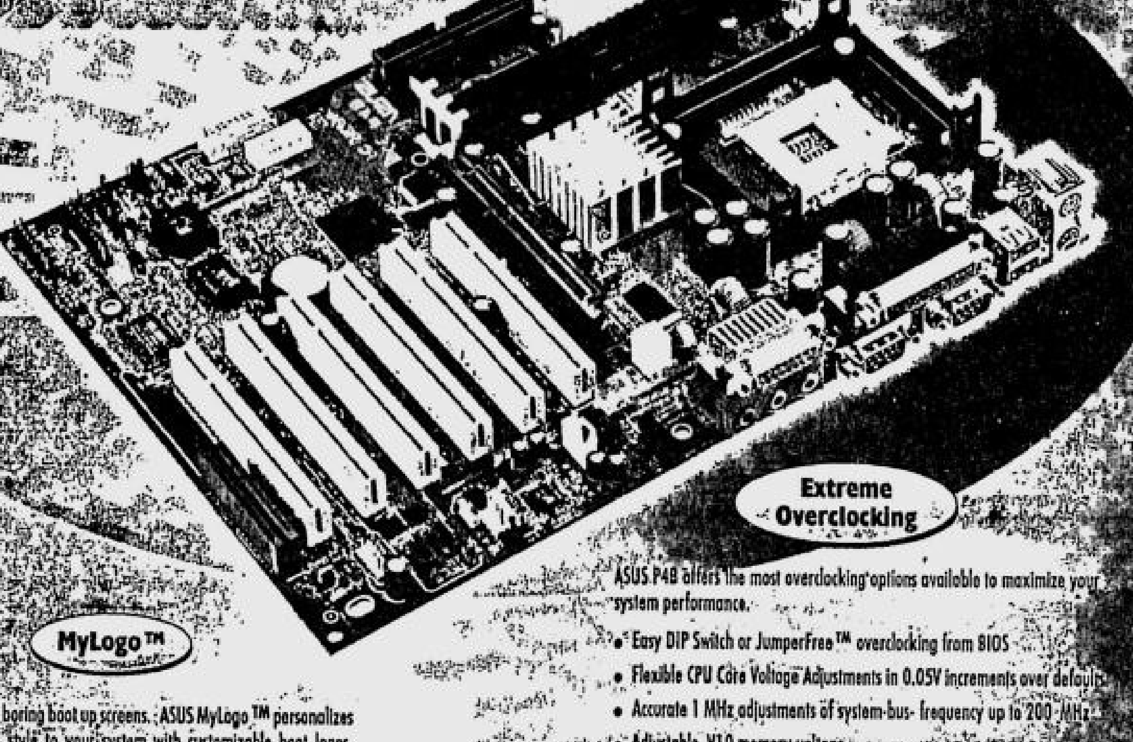

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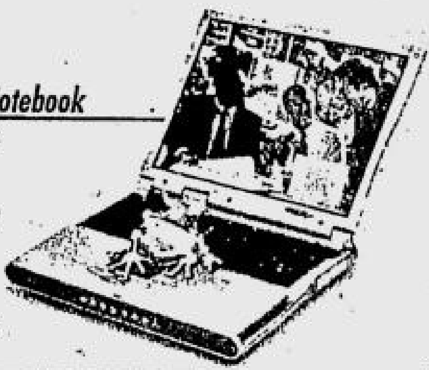

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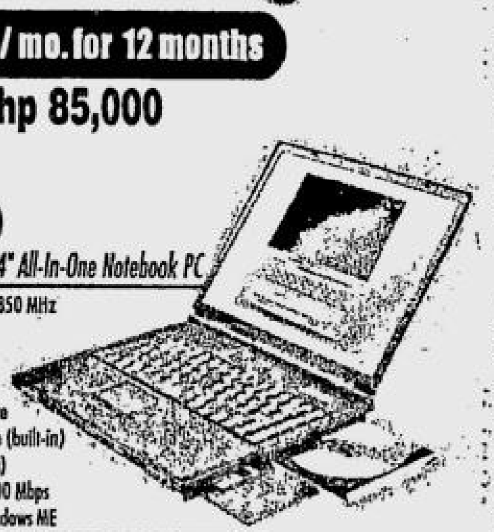

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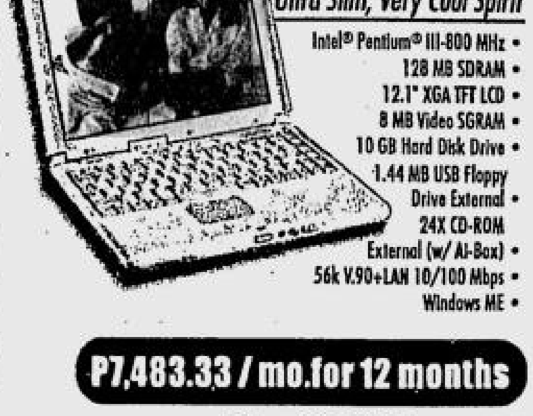

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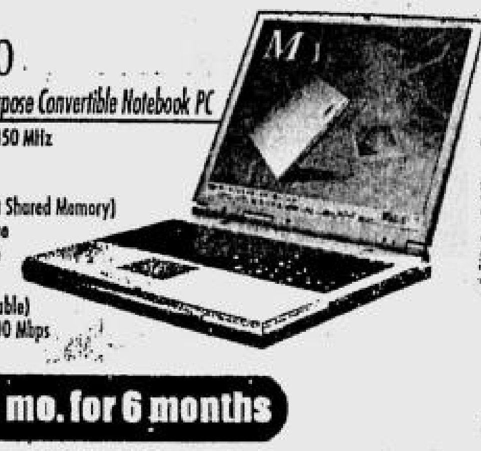

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RP school to deploy Palm-based solution

By Joey G. Alarilla

IMAGINE enrolling via a wireless network or collaborating with your group mates in school projects using Palm handheld computers.

For the students at one of the country's leading universities, this kind of wireless connectivity might soon become a reality with the deployment of a Palm-based solution for the academe, according to the Philippine distributor of the popular personal digital assistant (PDA).

"Palm (Inc.) is watching this project with interest, because this will really be a case study," Elbert Cuenca, channel development manager of Microwarehouse, said.

Microwarehouse, together with Lamco International, markets and sells Palm solutions in the Philippines.

Cuenca, however, declined to name the graduate school, saying that he did not want to preempt the signing of the memorandum of understanding.

Cuenca said that the groundbreaking project would involve the distribution of Palm units to students and deployment of stations all over the school for the infrared ports.

Cuenca stressed that the project aims to highlight Palm-based solutions that would enhance learning and enable the school to offer better services, rather than the number of Palm units that would eventually be sold.

"Ultimately, the school will buy Palms—maybe from us. But what's really important is their adoption of the solution," Cuenca said.

System integrator Intellimedia Corp. is the local firm that has developed the solutions for the school.

WIRED. Students in one RP graduate school will soon collaborate via handheld computers powered by Palm.

Without disclosing the actual applications that the school would implement, Intellimedia executive vice president Ernie Imperial said that the templates his firm has developed are customizable to the different needs of schools and their students.

"For schools in general, the students can view their schedules (using their PDA), they can enroll if they have a wireless network, and they can have internal calendars if they have a portal," Imperial said in a separate interview.

Apart from educational institutions, local firms are also becoming more aware of the competitive advantage that PDA-based mobility offers them, Cuenca said.

He said that since joining Microwarehouse on Jan. 2, he has been pushing enterprise solutions in the local market. He said that aside from large corporations, small- to medium-size enterprises are also recognizing the value of equipping and training a mobile workforce.

Cuenca said that in August, pharmaceutical company Zuellig purchased 500 units of the entry-level Palm m100 for their medical representatives to minimize the use of paper forms and enhance customer service.

Besides being lighter than laptops, the handhelds represent a fraction of their cost while providing sufficient functionality to the mobile workers, Cuenca pointed out. He said that the Palms allow the sales representatives to conveniently keep track of purchase orders, make their presentations and access the company database.

"Their (Zuellig's) vision is to find a killer application that would be used by their people to increase sales," said Tito Serafica, financial director of MediData, in a separate interview. MediData was the system integrator for the Zuellig project.

He said that Zuellig has deployed the Palm-based solution nationwide.

Meanwhile, Cuenca added that other firms that have deployed Palms for their workforce include Procter and Gamble, which developed in-house Palm-based applications for its sales representatives, and Unilever, which has equipped its distributors with the handhelds.

Cuenca stressed that despite the economic slowdown, Philippine companies remain a good potential market for these kinds of wireless solutions. He said that Microwarehouse alone is still posting average sales of 800 Palm units a month. During the Christmas peak season, the firm posts sales of 2,000 units, he said.

Worldwide, Palm Inc. has sold 14 million units to date.

Internet job sites a rage in recession-hit Singapore

SINGAPORE—Visitors to online employment sites have risen sharply after Singapore fell into recession, with more management-level people accessing the Internet to look for jobs, an industry monitor said Tuesday.

NetValue, a global Internet intelligence firm, said visitors to online employment sites totaled 144,870 in July, up 33.7 percent from April and 20.4 percent from June.

Visitors are also spending twice as long at the sites, logging an average 37 minutes in July compared to 18.6 minutes in April.

"With the consolidation going on in the banking and IT (information technology) industries, more people are expected to look for jobs," said Jack Loo, NetValue manager for Singapore.

"The Internet remains a viable channel for active job seekers," he said.

NetValue also noted an increase in the number of general and middle management people visiting the sites.

In July, 14.9 percent of the online job-finders were middle management people while 11.9 percent were general management, up from 11.4 percent and 8.6 percent, respectively, from April.

This reflected the job cuts in Singapore's electronics-dominated manufacturing sector, which has been hardest hit by the US-led global economic slowdown, and in the banking sector where major mergers took place.

NetValue also discovered "a surge of students" visiting employment sites.

"The downturn of the economy has also prompted students to proactively seek for job openings. Many reportedly applied for jobs ahead of graduation," Loo said.

Trade-dependent Singapore, Southeast Asia's most advanced economy, fell into recession in the first half after getting clobbered by the US slowdown and the downturn in the global electronics industry.

Analysts said the economy is likely to contract by as much as 2.3 percent this year after hopes for a recovery in the United States late this year were sabotaged by the deadly terrorist attacks in Washington and New York. *Agence France-Presse*

Consumer groups criticize Windows XP

WASHINGTON—A coalition of consumer groups Wednesday charged that the new Microsoft Windows XP operating system would "extend and deepen" the firm's monopoly power and urged antitrust officials to focus on the software in the pending federal court case.

"Windows XP advances the company's illegal anti-competitive practices and harms the nation's consumers," said the group, which includes Consumers Union and the Consumer Federation of America.

The system, due to be launched Oct. 25, is controversial because it incorporates several programs such as media players and instant messaging that may harm competitors.

Meanwhile, in South Korea, several firms announced they would band together to protest the release of Windows XP, according to a report from ZDNet News.

The firms, which include the largest Korean Internet portal, Daum Communications, and 17 other software companies, also cited the anti-competitive nature of Windows XP.

Daum had filed earlier this month a complaint against the planned release of XP with the Korea Fair Trade Commission. In a joint statement, the Korean firms charged that Microsoft is attempting to disrupt the market by bundling the new OS with a number of software applications.

A US appeals court on June 28 had upheld a finding that Microsoft acted as an illegal monopoly.

But it said the breakup of the company ordered last year by Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson was not justified by the evidence.

The US government earlier this month abandoned its demand for a breakup of Microsoft and narrowed the scope of the case in an effort to resolve the case more quickly.

The consumer organizations sent a letter to the Department of Justice Antitrust Division and state attorneys general, calling for "extensive conduct remedies" that would force Microsoft to remove programs found to be anti-competitive and retain court jurisdiction to break up the software giant if its conduct fails to comply with any settlement.

The groups also cited privacy concerns, saying that by incorporating the Passport authentication system, Microsoft will get a massive database of PC users.

"Microsoft intends to operate this service in an anti-consumer manner by linking who the consumer is to what the consumer does on the Internet," the coalition statement said.

Mark Cooper of the Consumer Federation said that, with Passport, "Microsoft is creating an entirely new basis of market power that would reside in the control of personal information." *Agence France-Presse, with a report from INQ7.net*

Launch of XP embedded software set for Nov. 28

THOUGH the launch of its new Windows XP operating system is getting flak from consumer groups and companies, Microsoft Corp. is already looking ahead to releasing the embedded version of XP for a number of devices.

The launch of Windows XP Embedded is slated for Nov. 28 at the Windows Embedded Developers Conference in Las Vegas, according to a report from ZDNet News.

Microsoft also announced that several products using Windows XP Embedded would be showcased at the conference.

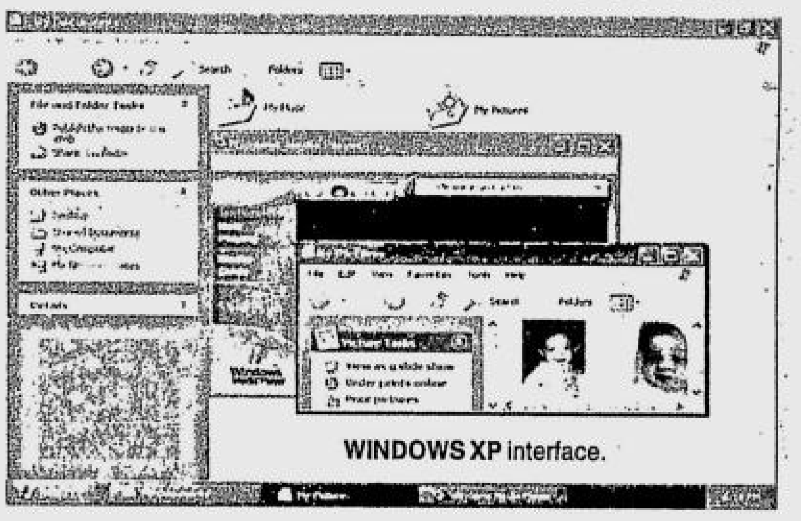
According to the report, these include Bally Gaming's casino video games, Fujitsu-Siemens' set-top boxes and Siemens' factory robots, the report indicated.

The official launch of Windows XP is scheduled for Oct. 25. PC makers such as Compaq, Dell and Gateway have already deployed the new OS version on their systems.

Microsoft's embedded software will go up against rival Linux, which has also been ported to several devices. Microsoft already has several existing embedded operating systems for devices, including PocketPC (formerly Windows CE) for handheld computers.

Meanwhile, the embedded version of XP for servers, will be released within 90 days of the server version of Windows XP, called Windows .Net Server, according to the report.

INQ7.net



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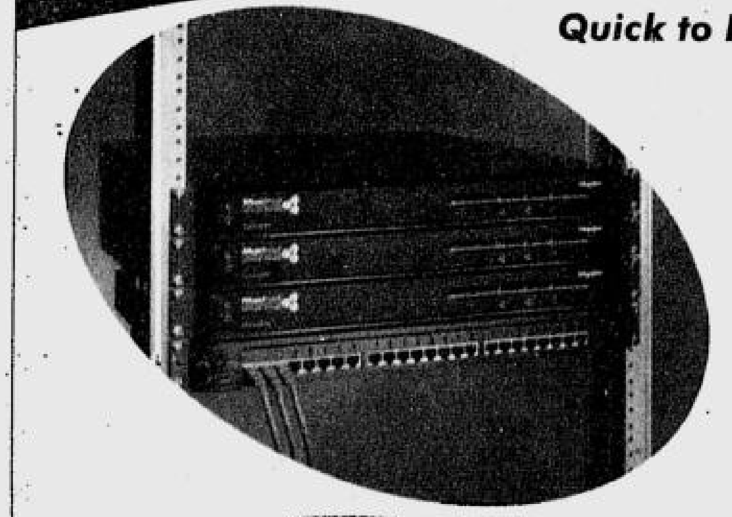

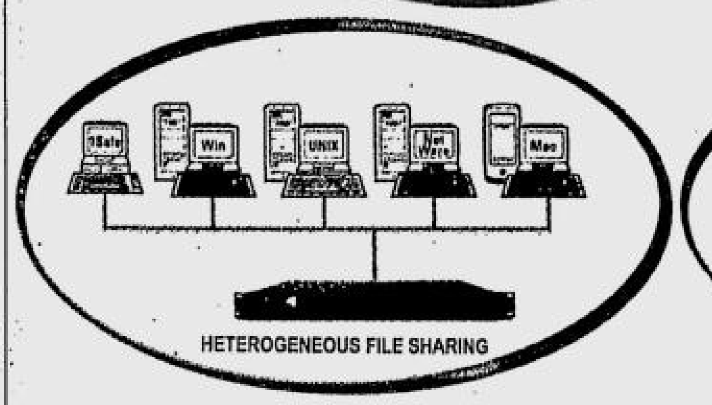

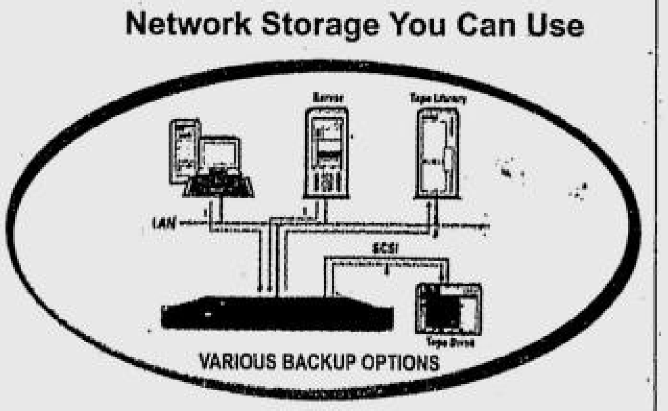

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Storage management apps from VERITAS launched

MOUNTAIN VIEW, California – Two new storage software capabilities have been introduced recently by VERITAS Software (Nasdaq: VRTS) to enable companies to more seamlessly manage key backup, reporting and disaster recovery functions within high-end enterprise environments.

Unlike hardware-based products, the new VERITAS FlashSnap and VERITAS Volume Replicator solutions support mixed storage array and operating system environments, helping companies to maximize their investment in storage resources.

VERITAS FlashSnap uniquely provides up to 32 point-in-time "snapshot" copies of enterprise information for key business applications such as data backup or analysis.

By allowing another system to access the snapshots of information created, these critical operations can occur without impacting the performance of the primary server environment.

This technology compares to traditional snapshot techniques that typically create just one to three snapshot copies at a time, and are linked to a specific storage array.

Also introduced is the Version 3.2 of VERITAS Volume Replicator that makes it easier and less disruptive for companies to move data between multiple locations and environments for disaster recovery and other large data migration applications.

A new, faster "failback" process seamlessly moves applications between primary and secondary locations under any failure scenario with virtually no downtime.

The new version offers excellent replication performance regardless of distance, and requires no additional hardware components. VERITAS Volume Replicator also uniquely integrates with VERITAS Software clustering technology.

"New to the market are host-based disk block replication alternatives which offer the potential for a less expensive solution to replicate all enterprise data, regardless of the disk platform chosen," said Donna Scott, vice president and research director, Gartner Inc.

Both VERITAS FlashSnap and VERITAS Volume Replicator are options that build upon VERITAS Volume Manager™, which efficiently manages storage resources and serves as the foundation of the VERITAS Software storage virtualization platform.

Storage virtualization enables companies to logically manage storage environments without regard to the underlying physical hardware location or vendor type. According to the study by Gartner Dataquest, "Storage Management Software: 2000 Market Share," VERITAS Software owns 96.2 percent of the evolving virtualization market.

"The tight integration of VERITAS FlashSnap and VERITAS Volume Replicator with VERITAS Volume Manager helps companies leverage our core storage virtualization technologies," said John Maxwell, vice president of product marketing, VERITAS Software. "This increases IT productivity while reducing administration costs, even as organizations manage increasingly complex storage enterprise environments."

VERITAS FlashSnap is an option of the VERITAS Foundation Suite and VERITAS Edition products, which include VERITAS Volume Manager, VERITAS File System and the VERITAS Database Edition optimization technologies.

Indian firm sets up software center for US electronics retail

BANGALORE, India—Indian software firm Wipro Ltd. announced Friday an alliance with US-based consumer electronics retailer Best Buy to set up a software center for the American firm.

The center will be based in India's information technology capital of Bangalore and Wipro said it would also provide consulting services for Best Buy.

"Currently around 50 people are working on the center," said Laxman Badiga, chief executive of Wipro Enterprise Solutions, a division of Wipro Technologies.

"Wipro will be working in leading technology areas in the retail sector for Best Buy," he added.

Badiga refused to divulge the financial details of the deal with Best Buy.

Rao Vellanki, director of Best Buy, said his company had an annual IT budget of $200 million.

"We will also be doing research in emerging technologies and projects such as enterprises and financial application and integration. This will be rolled out in the coming quarter," Vellanki said.

Wipro is India's third largest software exporter and in the fiscal year ending March 2001 exported software worth 17.6 billion rupees ($373 million).

Agence France-Presse

New IT school aims to make Internet skills more pervasive

By Joey G. Alarilla

WHILE the country already has numerous computer schools, a new educational institution hopes to differentiate itself by positioning itself as an "Internet career development center."

"We try to identify specific career tracks, based on the career paths students want to take," Roberto Estebanlar, executive vice president of iAsia Academy, said.

Estebanlar stressed that the institution wants to make Internet career training more pervasive in the Philippines. He explained that the school offers flexible in-house financing packages for public students, apart from value-added services such as job placement.

"The mission of iAsia is to establish the Filipino as the top choice as IT professionals," Estebanlar stressed. "Our strategy is to bring down prices. Normally, only professional workers can get this kind of training."

He stressed that students will get the same kind of world-class training at iAsia as professionals in other countries through the Carnegie Technology Education (CTE) program, developed in conjunction with one of the world's top software schools, Carnegie Mellon University. The school also offers certified training courses in Oracle, Sun, Adobe and Microsoft solutions.

The academy now has around 20 employees, and has its training facilities at The Enterprise Center in Makati City.

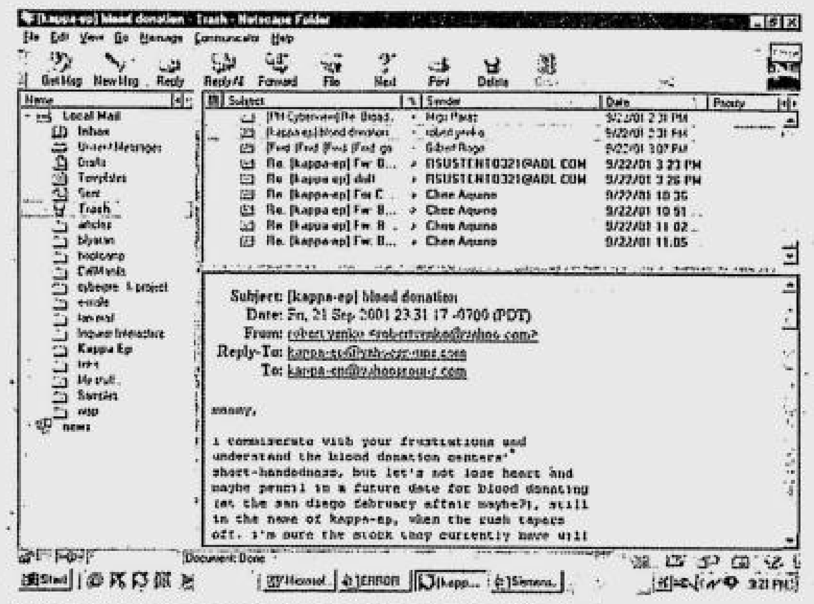
Estebanlar explained that iAsia would not go through the usual expansion route, but would instead partner with established schools and universities.

"We don't really intend to open branches in other parts of the country, unless there is really demand for that. Instead, we'd like to partner with schools and help develop their curricula even further," he said.

He said that iAsia is already talking with potential partners and has chosen Northern Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Cebu and Davao as the pilot sites. He said that iAsia aims to have the CTE programs implemented in these partner schools by the start of the academic year in 2002.

The Net plays key role in aftermath of attacks

By Joel D. Pinaroc



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Re: [kappa-ep] Fw: B...   ASUSTENT0321@AOL.COM   9/22/01 3:23 PM
Re: [kappa-ep] dull       ASUSTENT0321@AOL.COM   9/22/01 3:26 PM
Re: [kappa-ep] Fw: C...   Chee Aquino            9/22/01 10:36
Re: [kappa-ep] Fw: B...   Chee Aquino            9/22/01 10:51
Re: [kappa-ep] Fw: B...   Chee Aquino            9/22/01 11:02
Re: [kappa-ep] Fw: B...   Chee Aquino            9/22/01 11:05
```

Subject: [kappa-ep] blood donation
Date: Fri, 21 Sep 2001 23:31:17 -0700 (PDT)
From: robert yenko <robertyenko@yahoo.com>
Reply-To: kappa-ep@yahoogroups.com
To: kappa-ep@yahoogroups.com

```
nanny,

i commiserate with your frustrations and
understand the blood donation centers'
short-handedness, but let's not lose heart and
maybe pencil in a future date for blood donating
(at the san diego february affair maybe?), still
in the name of kappa-ep, when the rush tapers
off. i'm sure the stock they currently have will
```

THE E-MAIL became indispensable after Sept 11 attacks.

BY now, much has been said about the horrific attacks on prominent US landmarks.

For most, the aftermath of the attacks was even harder to swallow and harder to believe than the actual minute-by-minute coverage of news organizations as the events started to unfold on that fateful morning of Sept. 11.

The CNN footage showing the second jetliner crashing head-on in one of the towers of the World Trade Center is by now considered "historic." The first airliner, which slammed into one of the towers only 18 minutes prior to the second crash, was captured on film by amateur videographers.

Soon after, another airliner crashed in Pentagon, followed by yet another, which crashed in an open field in Pennsylvania, mercifully missing its apparent target.

It is hard to imagine the feelings of those who were there, not out of choice but as fate would dictate it, to witness the unfolding, terror-field events as the World Trade Center, one of America's well-loved symbols, reel down to eventually crash on the ground, leaving an almost surreal, gray blob of smoke in its wake.

Surely to go down in the annals of history as one of the worst-ever terrorist attack in modern times, people around the globe stood dumbfounded, in utter disbelief that a country as powerful and influential as the United States could be subjected to such brazen attacks.

The Herculean task of searching and rescuing survivors have immediately started with US firefighters, military men, police and volunteers, feverishly hoping to see signs of life from the thousands feared to have been victims of the attacks, knowing fully well that a grimmer task of identifying bodies lies ahead.

As much as there are hopes that there are more survivors trapped beneath the ruins, the body count has begun.

Amid stories of people yet to be accounted for and mangled bodies being pulled out of the ruins of the World Trade Center, we hear, read and see on the Internet stories of would-be victims, who by a stroke of luck or divine intervention, or both, have managed to avoid certain death.

We hear stories of heroism, specifically those of passengers on one of the airliners who may have fought it out with hijackers, ultimately preventing the massive jet to hit its intended target, either the White House or Air Force One, the presidential airline, according to reports.

And speaking of the Internet, technology was not far behind to take the forefront during these critical times. As much as the Internet is used to spread and propagate news and views, the Net is now being used as a communications medium more than ever.

In the wake of the attacks, the Internet is now being used as a venue for people to pour out feelings of grief, sympathy and anger. More than ever, e-mails flew fast and steady, providing a constant stream of messages between people.

At INQ7.net (the online joint venture of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and GMA Network), we received readers' reactions sharing with us how the Internet is helping them keep in touch with their relatives in the affected cities.

Many readers' noted that despite the massive communications breakdown, their e-mail has become a reliable tool allowing them to communicate with loved ones.

Fate would have it that the Internet, which its original creators envisioned to be an impervious communications tool during the times of war, would prove its creators right.

It is just unfortunate that the power of the Internet as a communications tool would be showcased during these dark and trying times.

New virus offers 'false peace'

WASHINGTON—An Internet virus disguised as an e-mail message about the US war on terrorism is spreading among computer users, security experts said Monday.

Known as the WTC or TROJ_VOTE.A virus, it is spread by e-mail with the message "Fwd: Peace BeTween AmeriCa And IsLam" and a text, "Hi! iS iT A waR Against AmeriCa Or IsLam! Let's Vote To Live in Peace!"

The virus is believed to be the work of an opportunist, according to a report from ZDNet News. Experts believe that the virus is not associated with the people behind the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that left more than 6,000 people dead or missing.

Simon Perry, vice president of security solutions at Computer Associates International, was quoted as saying that as many as 10 large corporate customers of Computer Associates have been infected since the virus first appeared Monday morning.

He said that researchers do not yet know where the new virus originated.

Clicking on the WTC.EXE attachment activates the virus, which propagates via Microsoft Outlook by sending e-mails to all addresses listed in an infected user's address book, said Trend Micro, a security firm.

Trend Micro has given the virus a medium-risk rating. Currently spreading in the wild, TROJ_VOTE.A was created using Visual Basic 5. The Trojan spreads via Microsoft Outlook by sending e-mail to all addresses listed in an infected user's address book.

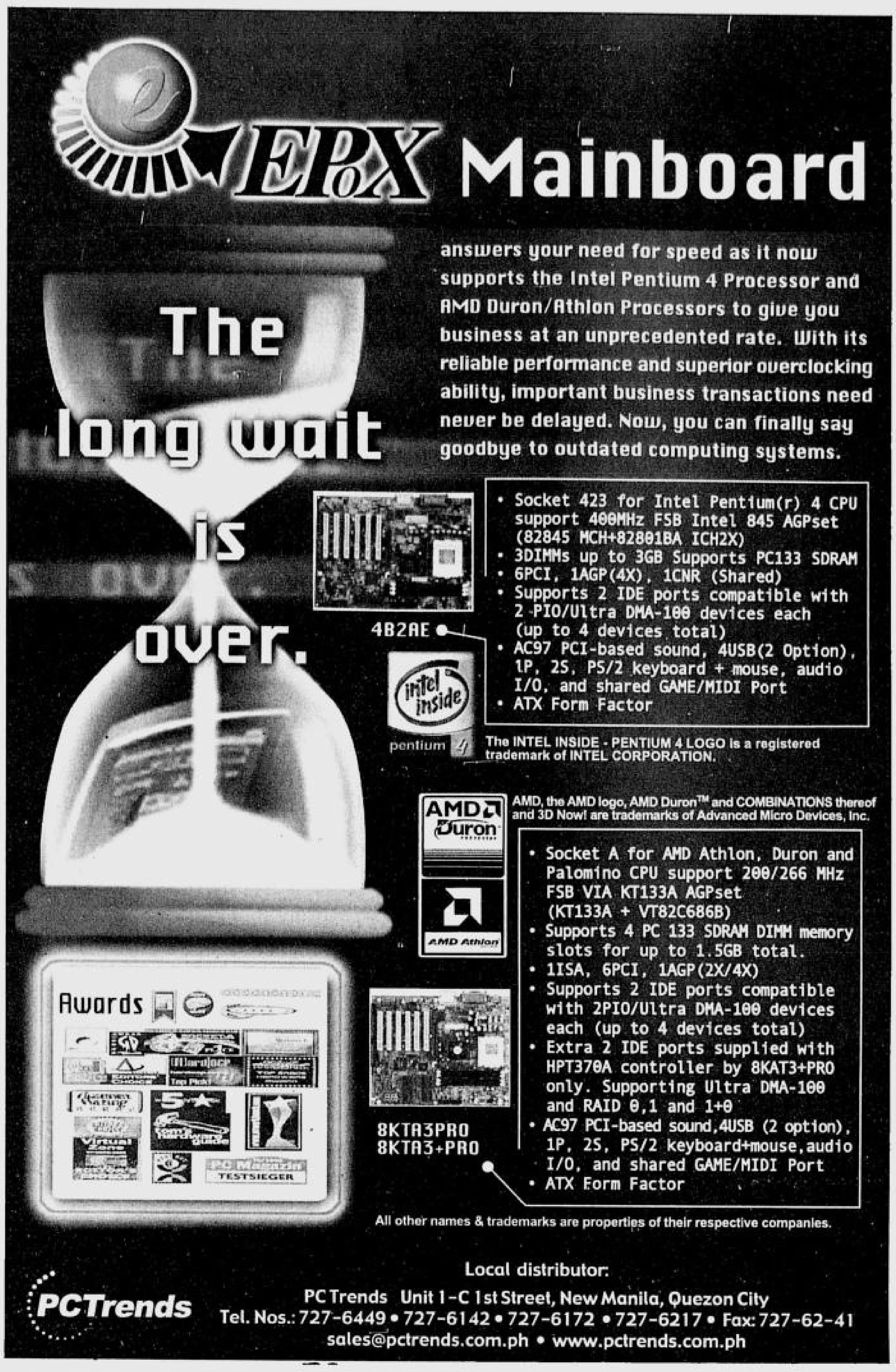
According to Symantec, another security company, the virus "will attempt to delete all files from several folders," including antivirus programs.

The virus drops the files WTC.exe, Mix DaLaL.vbs, and Zacker.vbs. It also modifies the infected user's Internet Explorer startup page, and formats the infected user's C: drive.

It parses drives and directories in search of HTM and HTML files and overwrites them with the following string: AmeRiCa...Few Days WiLL Show You What We Can Do !!! It's Our Turn >>> ZaCkEr is So Sorry For You.

Symantec also warned if the virus successfully installs its Backdoor.Trojan file, the computer might be accessed remotely by an unauthorized user who could steal or change passwords or obtain credit card or other information.

It also could allow an unauthorized user to send "inappropriate or even incriminating material from a customer's e-mail account," Symantec added. ***With reports from Agence France-Presse and INQ7.net***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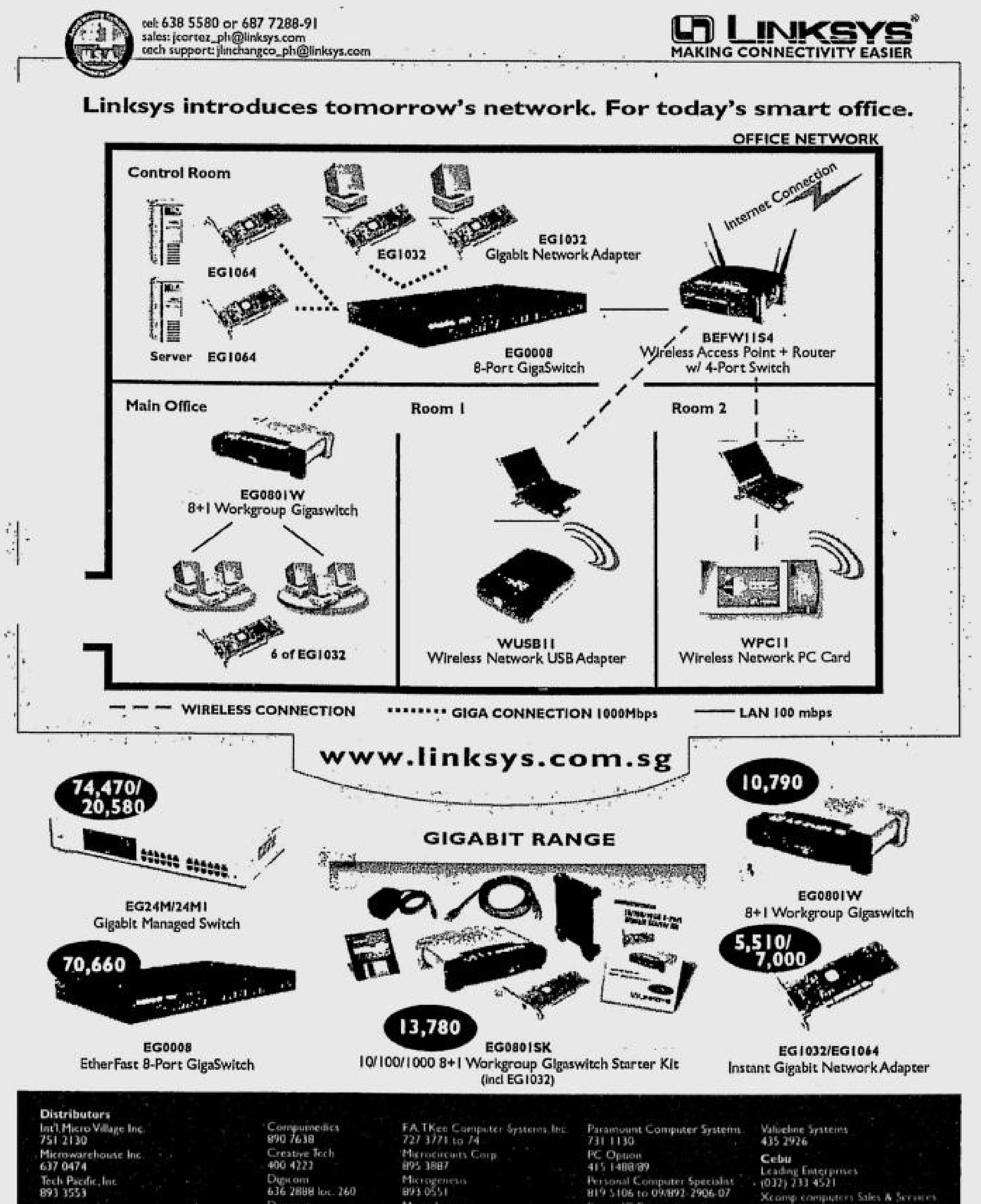
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Siemens targets Asian, US mobile phone markets

By Joey G. Alarilla

THE C45, one of Siemens' bets for the US and Apac mobile markets.

DESPITE the economic difficulties that have caused Siemens AG and its competitors to revise their forecasts, the German firm said that it is bullish of making headway in the Asia Pacific and US markets for cellular phones this year.

In Asia, Siemens announced a substantial growth in market share from 5. 4 percent in the first quarter to 12.1 percent in the second quarter, according to Georges Boulloy, Siemens AG's senior vice president for Product Operations of Information and Communication Mobile, who cited figures from research firm Gartner/Dataquest.

Boulloy, however, admitted that the US market for Siemens mobile phones is still almost non-existent. He however, said that the German firm aims to gain ground in the US market with the launch of the S40 triple-band phone this year.

"Asia is our primary focus," Boulloy said, adding that Siemens still has not changed its announced goal of becoming the No. 2 vendor of mobile phones in the Asia Pacific market.

"When you have a good goal, you shouldn't change it, and we have a good goal," he said.

According to Boulloy, the launch of the new mass-market WAP (wireless application protocol)-enabled C45 phone is expected to help the vendor increase its market share in Asia.

The C45, which was unveiled to Asian and European journalists in Istanbul, Turkey on Sept. 11, is set for commercial launch this October in Europe and Asia.

Siemens expects to attract more mobile users with the release of the new phone, not only because it will be priced competitively but also because of the stress on personalization in the new phone's design.

Positioned as a fashionable phone and lifestyle accessory, the entry-level C45 comes in two standard colors—Oriental Blue and African Grey. The use of removable and interchangeable CLIPit covers, however, means a world of color—with Siemens already coming out with eight other designs.

Moreover, since Siemens has also created an online interactive gaming community for mobile phone users at http://www.my-siemens.com/city, C45 users can also design their own CLIPit covers via the Internet. These would then be shipped to them within 15 days through Siemens' partners.

"The concept of the C45 is also good for the United States. A lot of people would want personalization," Boulloy said.

Services, Boulloy stressed, would be an increasingly important market segment for Siemens. The online community is not only expected to encourage more people to choose Siemens phones, but also to generate revenues from the online services, such as the small fees charged for downloading ring tones and logos as well ,as other e-commerce transactions.

Boulloy, however, stressed that Siemens is not competing with network operators. For example, in the Philippines, Globe Telecom has already been offering personalization services through MyGlobe and its website, just as Smart has Zed and its own online services.

Boulloy said that Siemens is offering an open standard to allow mobile users to enjoy different services. He said that this gives more choice to consumers, regardless of what network operators are offering.

Boulloy said that Siemens will talk to network operators on a country-to-country basis, and that operators can either continue offering their own services or incorporate that of Siemens.

Boulloy said that Siemens will be offering more online content, and that it expects services to account for a significant amount of revenue—perhaps as much as 10 percent of Siemens' future earnings.

Meanwhile, Ulrich Skrypalle, director for product design of Designafairs GmbH, stressed that design and functionality would be key in making mobile phones more indispensable for consumers.

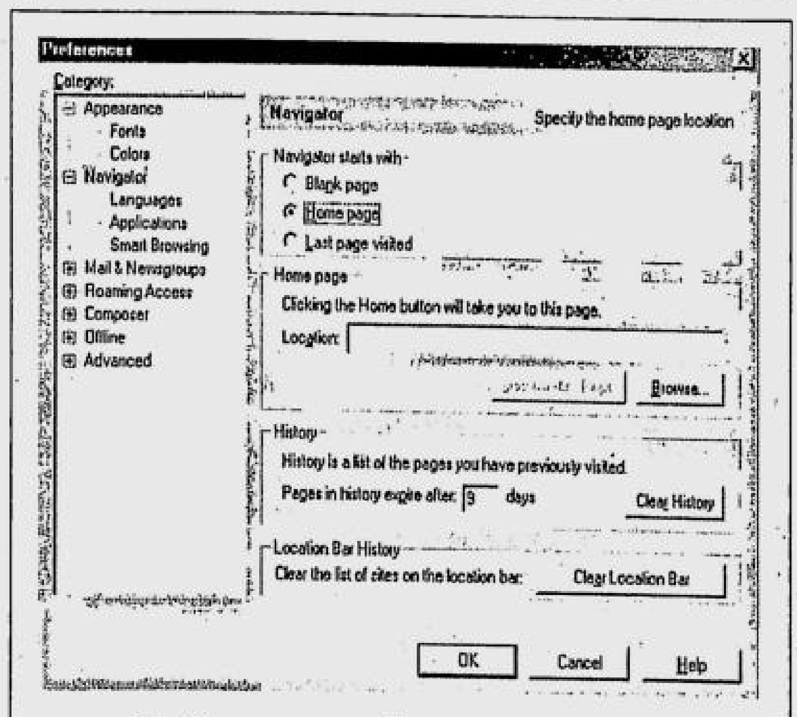
Designafairs, originally one of the divisions of Siemens AG, was spun off and now also handles the design needs of other firms, including car manufacturers. Skrypalle and his team designed the C45, as well as the SL45 MP3 phone.

"Next year, we plan to open a Designafairs office in China to understand that culture and open up that market," Skrypalle said.

He added that they put a lot of consideration to the needs of the Asian market in designing the C45. Apart from the size and personalized features, Skrypalle said that in the future the phones would have hooks so that they can be carried around more easily.

Meanwhile, when asked if the Siemens model for mobile services would resemble the old Internet hype of self-service and cutting off the middleman, Boulloy was cautious about making a sweeping statement.

"It could be. Again, it's a question of how knowledgeable consumers will be. If they know that the services are already around, then they would not require mediators. But the different channels, such as the network operators and banks, would all be important and the key would be to establish a personal relationship with consumers. In the future, we will also see a lot of local content," Boulloy said.



Navigator starts with
○ Blank page
● Home page
○ Last page visited

Home page
Clicking the Home button will take you to this page.
Location:

History
History is a list of the pages you have previously visited.
Pages in history expire after: 9 days

Location Bar History
Clear the list of sites on the location bar:

Managing your browser history

BY: Jerry Liao

POWER TIPS

BOTH Netscape and Explorer keeps a history list of the sites you've visited in the past. You can set the number of days in which it keeps information on visited links. Here's how:

Netscape Navigator

1. Go to Edit / Preference
2. Select Navigator
3. Under History, change the "Pages in history expires after" box toyour preferred number of days
4. Click OK to save changes

Internet Explorer

1. Go to View / Internet Options
2. Select the General Tab
3. Under History, change the "Days to keep pages in history" box to yourpreferred number of days
4. Click OK to save changes

For more tips, visit www.brainshare.com.ph.

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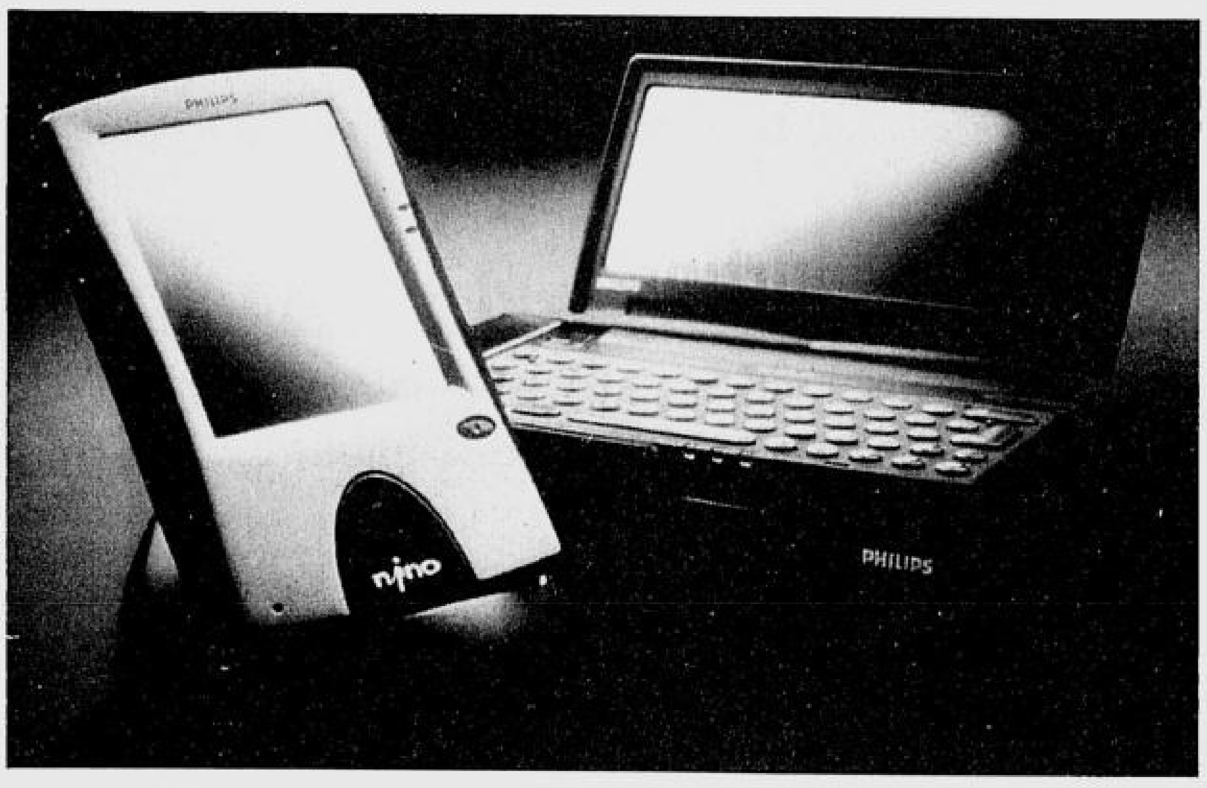

Mobile handset makers prefer Philip's wireless technologies

DID you know that there's a Philips component in almost every mobile phone? Yes, even in your trusted cell phone.

Philips, a market leader in communications and a major provider of innovative wireless technologies to mobile handset makers, provides everything needed for cellular phones, from discrete components to complete handsets. Philips supplies a wide range of parts that suit every, and all, cellular requirements, of mobile handset manufacturers.

Philips' standard products include single-chip solutions for basehand, RF, power amplifiers and power management; and thanks to its ASIC capabilities, the company can offer customized solutions on demand. Its GSM hardware is backed by advanced software products, while its complete cellular systems solutions are supported by Philips' system laboratories, design and technical centers.

As a total solutions supplier, Philips offers chipsets for complete systems that include LCD panels for all types of portable device—from the simplest mobile phone to advanced PDAs; from handheld devices for home network to WWW access (web tablets and zaptops); from GSM/GPRS capabilities, WAP, FM Radio, voice recognition to Bluetooth and 3G.

Moreover, Philips' software provides the means for differentiation among players, like the SIM Tool Kit that can easily be configured to make a state-of-the-art product. And its Net Display Modules—the industry's only in-panel, system-board integrated LCD modules—enable the world's thinnest, lightest display-centric Internet appliance products for anytime, anywhere Internet access.

In fact, these modules allow OEM customers to quickly and cost-effectively bring clients to market by integrating best-in-class hardware and software into the module.

Today, Philips has some of the best performance features in the market, offering, among other things, unrivalled talk time (up to 18 hours) and standby time (500 hours and above) for its GSM and GPRS system solutions. So, if you're wondering how that small technological wonder makes communication like child's play, maybe it's got Philips inside.

Napster strikes accord with music publishers

SAN FRANCISCO—Besieged Internet music-swapping site Napster reached an agreement Monday with US songwriters and music publishers that could sound the final note of their ongoing legal battle.

The agreement would license songwriting and publishing rights to Napster, which has been sued for copyright infringement by publishers, composers and record companies, the parties said in a statement.

Napster has all but shut down in the wake of the lawsuits, filed in federal court in San Francisco.

Monday's agreement, which requires the approval of US District Court Judge Marilyn Hall Patel, came cn the eve of a complete retooling of Napster's music sharing service which was to become fee-based. It has been rescheduled to launch later this fall.

Napster agreed to pay music creators and copyright owners $26 million to settle damages from the past unauthorized use of their songs. The swapping service will also pay a $10-million advance against future licensing royalties as part of the agreement.

"We are pleased to have secured such an important element in creating our new service, one that will benefit songwriters, artists and consumers alike," said Konrad Hilbers, CEO of Napster.

"This landmark agreement marks a huge stepping stone toward building a digital music marketplace and we're pleased to have played such a key role in moving the market forward."

Signatories to the agreement include the National Music Publishers' Association, the Harry Fox Agency, and the Songwriters' Guild of America (SGA).

"You can mark this date on your calendar," said SGA's George David Weiss.

"Today, the American music community and the online community together took a giant leap forward," he said in a statement.

"This settlement, which only a few weeks ago seemed a near-impossibility, will hopefully lead to immediate and unprecedented growth in the licensed use of music on the Internet."

Agence France-Presse

Terrorist attacks hamper any technology recovery

TOKYO—The suicide hijackings in the United States will delay the long-awaited rebound in the global technology sector, Hitachi Ltd. president Etsuhiko Shoyama warned Thursday.

A recovery may not occur until 2003, dashing hopes of a revival by the middle of next year, he added. "Business in electronic parts and related equipment has been seriously affected by the terrorist attacks," Shoyama told a news conference.

"We had expected the industry outlook to begin recovering next summer but considering the impact of the attacks in the United States, we will have to revise this expectation," he said.

"We are now considering the possibility that the industry's business rebound may be delayed until the beginning of 2003."

Shoyama was more optimistic about information technology services.

"Other IT businesses such as solutions services will perform well from now on because financial institutions, local governments and corporations are showing strong demand. So I'm not so pessimistic," he said.

Under a structural reform plan advocated by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi the government plans to channel funds into new priority sectors such as information technology.

Shoyama was speaking after the hi-tech giant announced plans to spin off two major divisions from April to boost efficiency as part of a drastic restructuring programme.

The move, involving Hitachi's mammoth consumer group and its industrial arm, would result in further job cuts, said consumer products chief executive Kunio Sebata, although he declined to give specific details.

"We have no plan to cut jobs at the outset of the creation of the new company that will sell consumer products but by the end of 2004 we plan to reduce the current workforce of 18,000," he said.

The firm's consumer division—which makes refrigerators, air conditioners and other household appliances—will absorb two Hitachi subsidiaries to form a separate company with 18,000 employees, which is expected to generate 560 billion yen ($4.78 billion) in revenue in the year to March.

The second business to be spun off is the industrial group, which will absorb four Hitachi subsidiaries to form a company with 4,800 employees and 149 billion yen in sales in the current year.

"Ongoing changes in the industrial components equipment market environment are making it imperative to accelerate the process of developing and offering high added-value products," Hitachi said in a statement.

Hitachi is one of the world's leading electronics firms, with revenue of 8.42 trillion yen in the year to March 2002.

But slack demand for personal computers and mobile phones forced the company to announce in August that 14,700 jobs—or 4 percent of the total workforce—would be cut by next March.

Agence France-Presse

ExciteAtHome to file for bankruptcy

SAN FRANCISCO—Internet firm ExciteAtHome said Friday it would file for bankruptcy protection and seek to sell its high-speed Internet service to AT and T for $307 million.

ExciteAtHome, a once high-flying global Web portal and high-speed Internet service provider, becomes one of the biggest Internet companies to fail.

The company was formed in 1999 when the AtHome broadband group bought the Excite portal for some $6.7 billion.

The firm, based in Redwood City, California, said in a statement it had agreed "to sell essentially all of its broadband Internet access business assets and related services to AT and T for $307 million in cash," subject to approval of the bankruptcy court.

The filing under Chapter 11 of the US bankruptcy code "will enable ExciteAtHome to maintain operation of its high-speed cable Internet access services and other related services during the sale approval process," the company said.

"This filing is a tool to protect the value of the broadband business for the benefit of the company's financial stakeholders and will help reassure our customers that service will continue uninterrupted through the restructuring process," said Patti Hart, chairman and chief executive officer.

The company operates the Excite Web portal that had been one of the top sites on the Internet but was unable to keep up with giants such as Yahoo and the rise of Microsoft's MSN.

It recently reduced its emphasis on portals to concentrate on high-speed Internet delivery, and has been among the biggest in the US market.

Excite had at least 15 regional sites, including ones in Japan, Britain and Italy, after closing down some of its European portals. It reported 3.2 million subscribers to its high speed cable modem Internet access service as of March 2001.

AT and T was already a major stakeholder in the firm, and was expected to seek to integrate the Internet access services with its own cable TV operations, AT and T Broadband, which may then be sold or spun off. *AFP*

Disposable cell phones anyone?

DISPOSABLE cellular phones that are pre-loaded with calling minutes will soon be available off the shelf in K-mart and 7-Eleven retail outlets, a ZDnet.com news report said.

Security reasons related to the recent terrorist attacks on US landmarks however, could prevent the cell phones from taking off in the US market.

According to a ZDnet.com report, the cell phones are stripped-down versions of their more expensive cousins—offering in the case of some phones just the ability to make a single phone call. Features like voice mail and other amenities standard for most wireless phones are not part of the disposable phone's package of services, the report said.

The report however, said the Unites States' most powerful law enforcement officials had singled out disposable cell phones as possible tools used by suspected terrorists in the attacks, saying on the CBS television show "Face the Nation" that the current set of wiretap regulations are useless if terrorists and criminals use these phones.

According to the phones manufacturers however, the disposable phones aren't as anonymous US government officials think.

Hop-On Wireless, one of the companies manufacturing the phones said the units only work in the United States, making it impossible for a foreign terrorist to reach someone outside the country.

The phones will sell for $30 and will be offered in less than a month and that experts think they could catch on in the United States, but among the set of people "with poor credit ratings, no credit histories or transient lifestyles, or people such as seniors and vacationers who simply want to have a phone available for emergencies," the ZDnet.com report said.

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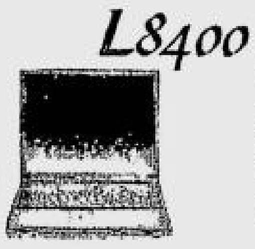

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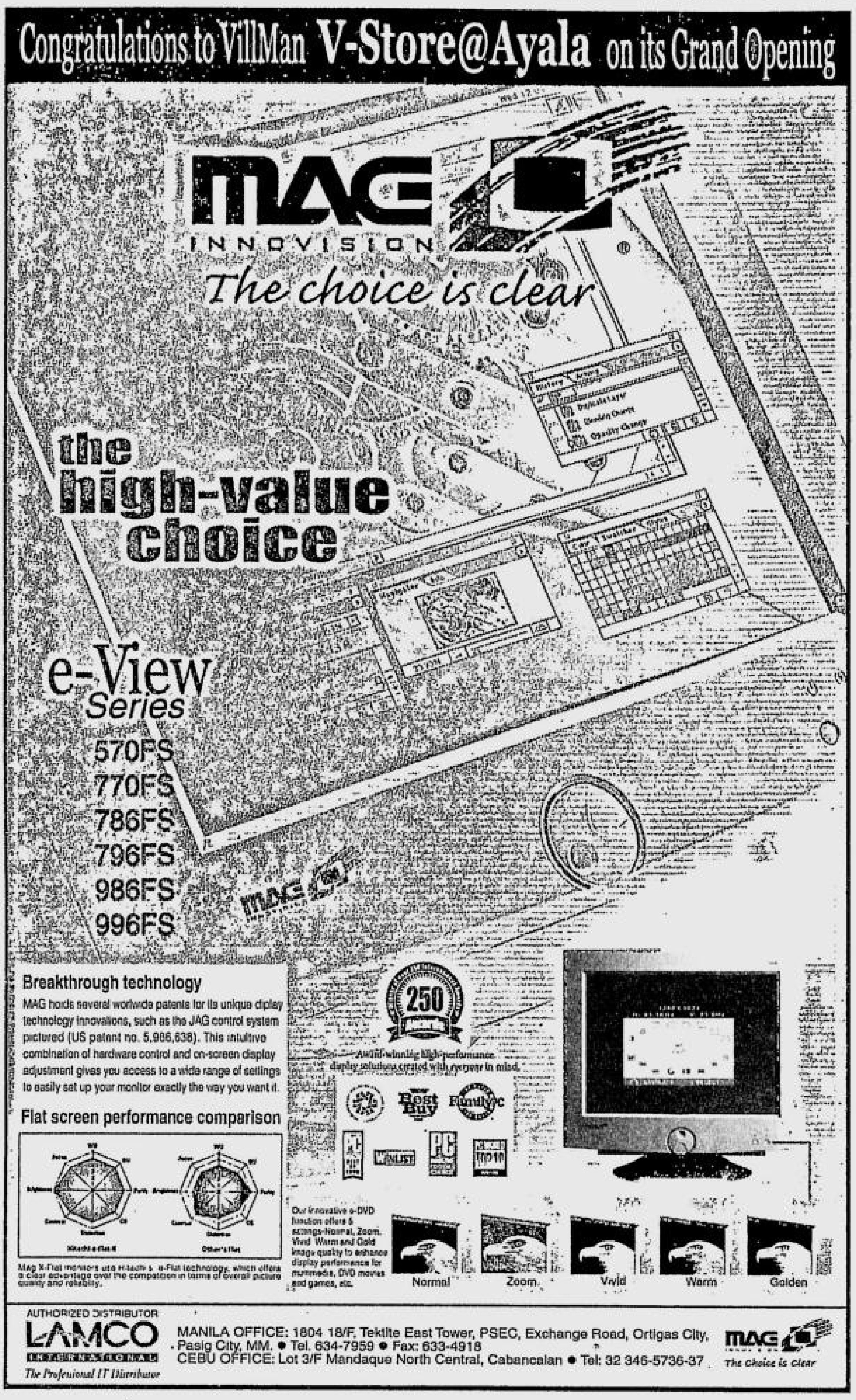

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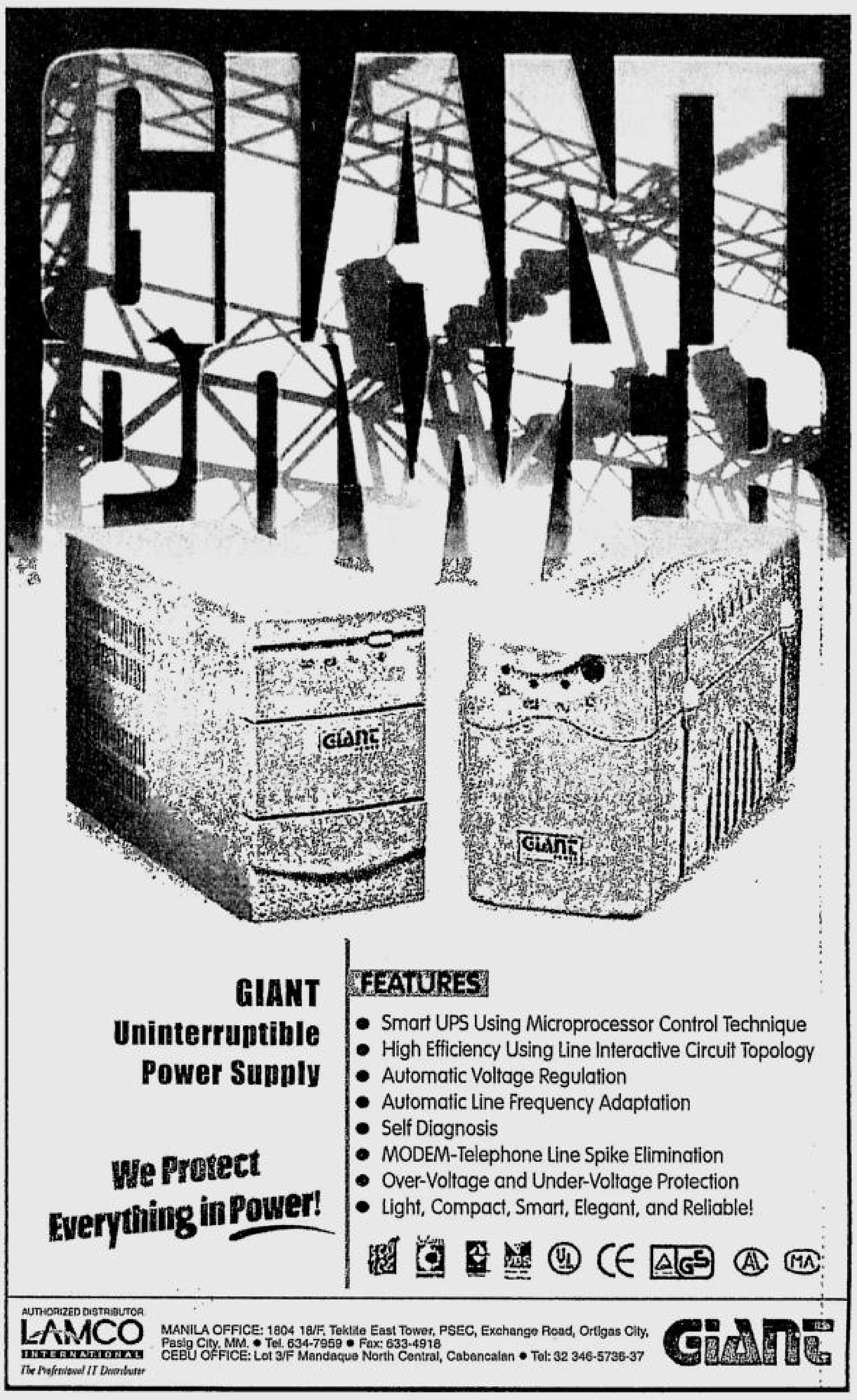

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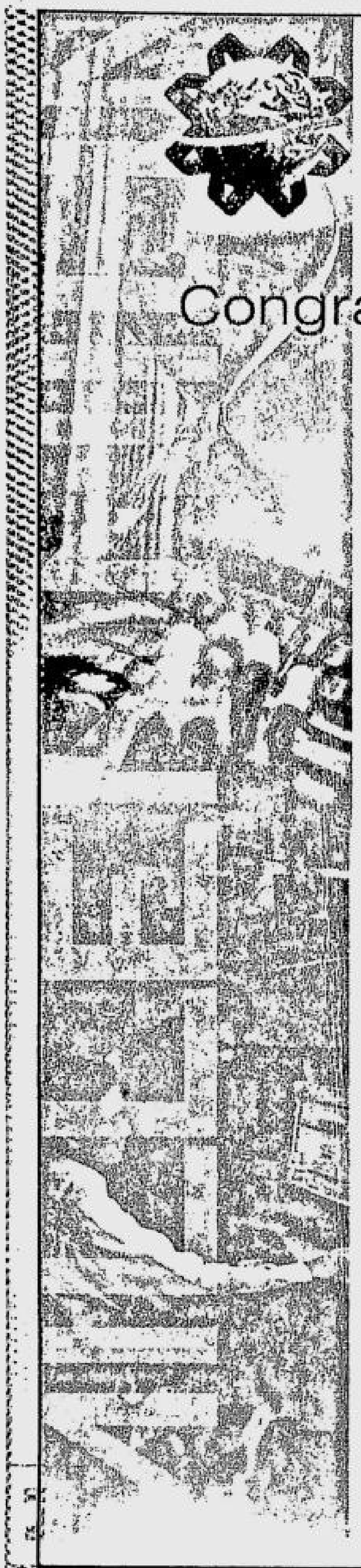

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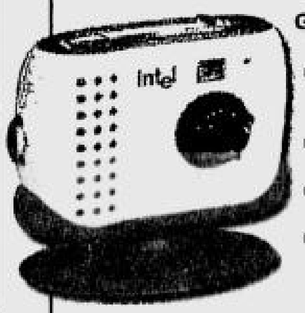

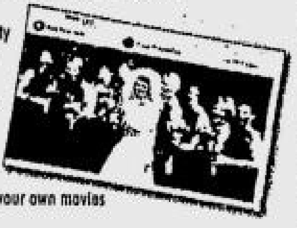

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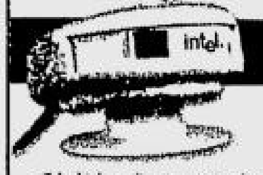

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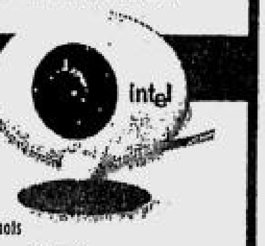

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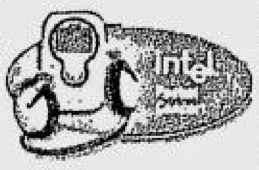

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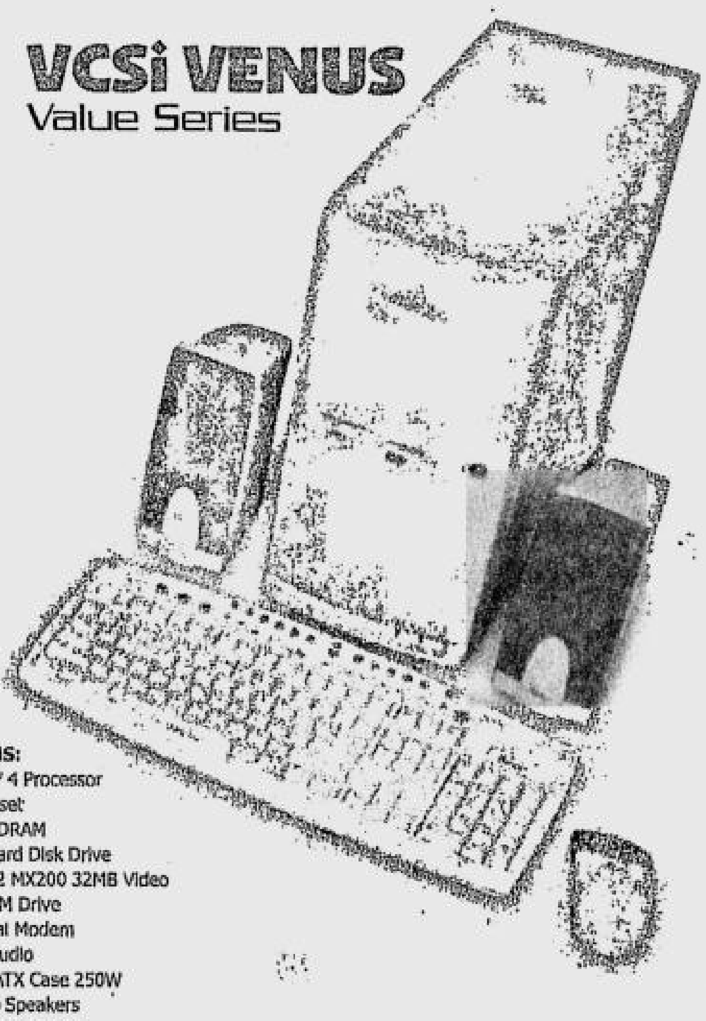

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[Please see V-Price Club related story below]

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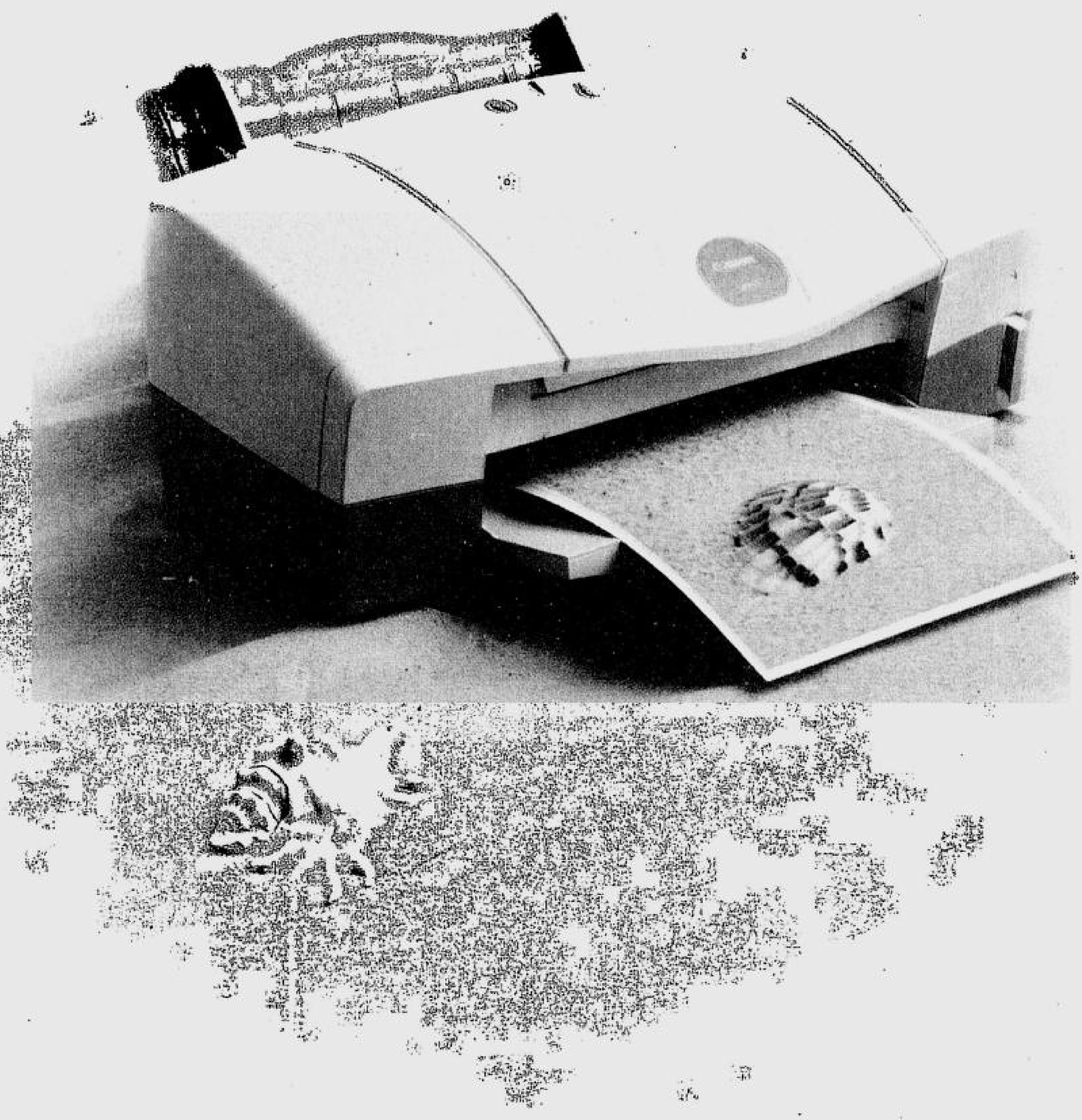

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Osama makes Bill Gates poorer by $7 B

WASHINGTON—Poor Bill Gates. He's down to his last $46 billion. Osama bin Laden just made him poorer by $7.2 billion.

And two of his richest associates at Microsoft lost a total of $5.3 billion. Paul Allen was poorer by $2.8 billion and Steven Ballmer barely held on to his berth on the list of 10 richest Americans after losing $2.5 billion.

The wallets of the richest Americans are substantially thinner now following the Sept. 11 terror attacks, which have sent the US stock market into a tailspin and undercut consumer confidence, according to a survey made public here.

Some of the US business moguls lost more than a third of their net worth, as American consumers postponed recreation and travel, the survey of 400 richest Americans released Thursday found.

The study, published annually by Forbes Magazine, shows that practically all top US business leaders lost hundreds of millions of dollars as a result of the terror acts, which have jolted the nation and deeply affected its psyche.

The list of those who lost the most also includes Micky Arison, owner of Carnival Cruise Lines, the largest cruise company in the world, which in its heyday enjoyed annual sales of $3.8 billion.

The attacks cost him $1.7 billion, or 37 percent of his portfolio, as jittery vacationers flocked to cancel reservations for fear of terrorist acts against cruise ships, according to the study.

As of Monday, Arison was worth $2.9 billion, down from $4.6 billion in late August.

Billionaire financier Kirk Kerkorian saw his assets dwindle by $1.9 billion, or nearly 36 percent, because a significant portion of his money is invested in various Las Vegas casino resorts, including MGM Mirage and MGM Grand.

The US travel industry, which includes airlines, hotels and resorts, has emerged as the main casualty of the attacks, in which terrorists used hijacked planes to ram them into the buildings.

Even the stock of automaker DaimlerChrysler, in which Kerkorian had significant holdings, lost ground last year.

The confluence of these events left him with just $3.4 billion in his pocket, down from $5.3 billion in late August.

John Willard Marriott, whose father began his career selling root beer in the late 1920s and subsequently built one of the most successful hotel chains in the world, shared a similar fate.

His loss amounted to $410 million, or 34.2 percent of his portfolio, as Marriott stock tumbled in the wake of the attacks, the survey showed.

Marriott's brother, Richard Edwin, fared slightly better. His loss equaled $400 million or 28.6 percent of his fortune.

Retail trade, meanwhile, appeared to emerge as one of the "safest" investments under the circumstances.

Helen Walton, heiress of the Wal-Mart retail store fortune, lost only one billion dollars, or 5.7 percent of her net worth, amid plummeting equity values.

Her company operates about 4,500 discount stores around the world, with combined annual sales of $191 billion.

As usual, the list of the 400 richest people in the United States was led by Gates, although he too was struck by the stock market carnage.

US stocks on average lost about 15 percent of their value in the week following the strikes.

Investor Warren Buffett, whose holdings range from soft drinks to insurance, ranked second, with $33.2 billion before the attacks and $30.4 billion after.

Allen, was in third place. His personal assets were valued at $28.2 billion in late August and $24.2 billion in late September.

Agence France-Presse

HERE is the list of 10 richest Americans as ranked by the Forbes annual survey. All figures, in billions of US dollars, reflect their net worth before and after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and subsequent stock market slump.

1. William Gates, Microsoft—54 (before); 46.8 (after)
2. Warren Buffet, financier—33.2 (before); 30.4 (after)
3. Paul Allen, Microsoft—28.2 (before); 24.2 (after)
4. Lawrence Ellison, Oracle—21.9 (before); 18.5 (after)
5. Jim Walton, Wal-Mart—17.5 (before); loss unknown
6. John Walton, Wal-Mart—17.5 (before); loss unknown
7. Robson Walton, Wal-Mart—17.5 (before);loss unknown
8. Alice Walton, Wal-Mart—17.5 (before); loss unknown
9. Helen Walton, Wal-Mart—17.5 (before); 16.5 (after)
10. Steven Ballmer, Microsoft—15.1 (before); 12.6 (after)

—Agence France-Presse

A mobile phone named Steffi

(From page D1)

(wireless application protocol)-enabled C35, M35 and S45, Siemens has put additional emphasis on design while maintaining functionality.

The coolest of the cool, of course, remains the SL45 MP3 phone, which I'm still lusting after-though chances are I'll just buy the MP3 player USB (universal serial bus) accessory that plugs into different Siemens models.

Siemens is positioning C45 as a fashionable, for the mass-market or entry-level phone. One thing that attracts a number of people, particularly women (and, no, they're not lesbians), to Steffi is the colorful and exchangeable CLIPit covers.

Sure, Nokia already has its cell phone casings (or housings), but Siemens has chosen a different and for me a more convenient way of going about it.

Here, the covers just snap on to the phone, which you can actually use "nude" since the keypad remains.

Personally, I find some of the colors, well, wimpy, but I like the standard Oriental Blue and the fiery red Hot Magma. The exciting thing is that people can personalize their phones even further by designing their own CLIPits online via www.mysiemens.com/city.

You just go to the site, design your personalized cover electronically, then wait up to 15 days after you submit it to get your new CLIPit cover. Of course, one drawback to this is that we're likely to see a lot of ugly, silly and even nightmarish cell phone covers.

I'm getting impatient, however, waiting for this online community of mobile phone users to really get rolling. While the site's been up since July, the services still have to be rolled out in different countries.

In other words, Siemens will be talking to network operators on a country-to-country basis because it will be charging a small fee for the online services, such as the downloading of ring tones and logos and the designing of CLIPit covers.

It would also be wrong to think that Steffi just has looks but no substance. For an entry-level phone, the C45 is feature-rich. It has WAP but isn't GPRS (general packet radio service) enabled.

The Siemens officials pointed out that the C45 is a mass-market phone, and the mass market just isn't read yet for GPRS. Just look at the GPRS services of Smart and Globe in the country. If you want a GPRS phone, get the M45 (the upgrade to the ruggedized M35) or S45—the mid and high-end phones, respectively, which are already available locally.

The Siemens officials in Istanbul kept harping about one of the C45's personalized features, which is the birthday reminder.

Seriously, however, I like these variations of the alarm function, such as the appointments reminder. I like these "Get in touch" organizer-type features of the C45 particularly because I find the mobile phone more convenient for storing info than PDAs (personal digital assistants).

I do have complaints about Steffi, though. One of my biggest pet peeves is that they changed the key functions a bit, so I have to unlearn some of my navigation habits from using the M35.

The C45 retains the design of two navigation keys, each with two different soft key functions. The designers, however, decided to raise the two soft keys, with Siemens officials explaining that this "embossed" design would protect the keys from wear and tear.

As one female European journalist (I won't mention the country to protect her identity) confided to me while we were cruising the Bosphorus, however, "the keys don't do anything for her."

I happen to agree—I find the new design clunky, because the two points are nearer to each other. The keys also don't seem as touch-sensitive as those of the M35.

And, frankly, I hate the fact that the scroll down and scroll up functions for the menu are now on separate buttons. In the M35, they were both on the left button.

If you think it's bad enough getting used to the C45's slight changes in navigation design when you're a Siemens user, think about the different Nokia-using journalists who asked for my help. Then again, that doesn't mean Nokia's interface is more user-friendly, just that more people are used to it.

Steffi wouldn't be complete without her games, and the one that really shows promise is BattleMail Kung Fu, which Siemens is hyping because it's the first cell phone-based multiplayer game.

It's been licensed from BattleMail.com, which introduced the world's first e-mail based multiplayer gaming system. Right now, I'm just playing in practice mode, but once the C45 becomes commercially available you can challenge different players around the world via SMS (short message service).

Moreover, this is true convergence because some of your opponents will be using their cell phones while others will be using their PCs. Challenges and responses are sent out via SMS, but you will see the outcome in animation.

So, how do I feel about Steffi? She's not perfect, but her beauty's more than skin deep—and I'm learning to adore her just a bit more each day.

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Inforserve chosen Microsoft global finalist

MICROSOFT Corp. recently voted Inforserve International Inc. as the only finalist for packaged application of the year in Asia and South Pacific regions. Inforserve's Megabanker suite of banking applications was selected from 775 entries submitted by solutions and services partners worldwide, determined based on excellence and information in customer solution delivery and service.

"The Microsoft Partner Awards allow Microsoft to reward excellence in emerging technologies," said Ian Rogoff, vice president of Microsoft's worldwide partner group. The Megabanker is a new generation, large scale banking solution designed for big commercial and universal banks. It harnesses the technologies of Microsoft and runs under Windows NT/2000 platform.

US-based Inforserve International is a high-technology company with roots in the Philippines. With more than two decades of experience in software solutions, it developed the Megabanker in cooperation with foreign banking experts and was designed to integrate total bank operations. Its various modules include deposit, tellering, general ledger, telebanking, Internet banking. ATM switching, trust, and a comprehensive loans management and loans origination system. These systems can be installed individually or as an integrated solution for bank operations.

"Infoserve's competitive edge is its price performance, having its research development and support facilities in the Philippines," according to George J. Lissandrello, president and chief operating officer. "Our systems are far more flexible to customize to a. bank's operation compared to other foreign banking software," he added.

GLOBE EXPANDS SUN LIFE'S CONNECTION

Globe Telecom and Sun Life Financial have entered into a new international private leased line (IPL) agreement that will expand Sun Life Financial's data services to China (via Hong Kong) and India. The new order involves international leased circuits of 64 Kbps each. It also includes an upgrade of Sun Life Financial's existing IPL link to Canada from 128 Kbps to 256 Kbps. Sun Life Financial has also acquired five E1 circuits from Globe. Shown signing the agreement are (from left) Joaquin Teng, vice president, Globe Telecoms; Gil Genio, SVP and CEO, Islacom; Enrico Abad Santos, vice president and chief information officer, Asia, Sun Life Financial, and Nilo C. Zantua, operations and network computing officer, Sun Life.

WELCOME TO JOLLIBEE-MURALLA

The Jollibee mascot welcomes its Muralla store's first customer, Linda Tubillo and grandchild Junica, during its recent opening in Intramuros, Manila. The two received a special gift courtesy of the country's fastfood leader. The newest store opened at 7 a.m., but excitement drove Tubillo and her grandchild, who was even carrying a Jollibee doll during the visit, to arrive as early as 6 a.m. to wait for the store to open. Jollibee-Muralla, the fastfood chain's 400th store, also caters to various students from the nearby colleges and universities in the area.

MANILAN AWARDEE

Dr. Corazon D. Santiago, director, national capital region, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, receives from Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, the coveted award for education as an outstanding Manilan during the recently held 'Araw ng Manila' rites at the Centennial Hall, Manila Hotel.

HOUSING FINANCE FOR SHDA DEVELOPERS

Funding institutions of the government shelter program have assured members of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association (SHDA) of continued funding support during SHDA's two-day national developers convention. Shown above addressing the convention on the home loan facility for informal sector is lawyer Angelico T. Salud, president of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corp. also shown are (from left) SHDA officers Jesus B. Atencio, first vice president; Willie J. Uy, second vice president; Mariano D. Martinez, Jr., national president, and Manuel C. Crisostomo, CEO and president of Home Development Mutual Fund.

Linksys holds product presentation in Cebu

MICROWAREHOUSE Inc., a leading distributor of Linksys networking products in the country, recently held a Linksys product presentation for the brand's Cebuano resellers and end-users at the Holiday Plaza Hotel. Linksys products help users easily set-up and maintain wireless LANs and link these to a wired environment.

Linksys country manager Jeff Cortez together with network engineer Edson Gozo familiarized the resellers and end-users about the features and benefits of Linksys' latest networking products.

Linksys has launched its new Instant Wireless line of IEEE 802.11b LAN solutions, which include Access Points, PC Cards, PCI Adapters, USB Adapters and Wireless Access Point + Cable/DSL Routers.

Microwarehouse Inc. is a primary provider of leading edge data networking products. Microwarehouse has built a network of over 600 dealers nationwide.

Petron Gasul launches Tawag Lang Center

PETRON Gasul further innovates to better serve the public via its newly launched Gasul Tawag Lang Center (TLC), a computerized LPG Home Delivery System accessed through 532-2222. Within an hour, a customer will have a new Gasul LPG tank delivered to his doorsteps and connected for free by a Gasul serviceman.

Initially available in Metro Manila, Gasul TLC primarily functions as an order forwarding and delivery dispatching system. By dialing 532-2222, customers are guaranteed quick connection to the central order-receiving center. The order is forwarded to the Gasul dealer with a store located nearest the customer's address. An available unit is then immediately dispatched to complete the delivery.

To avail of this fast and convenient home delivery service, non-Gasul users may swap their existing cylinder tanks for Gasul LPG tanks.

The Gasul TLC is also a hotline for inquiries, complaints, follow-ups and service requests. Its two-way communication system allows immediate action on customers' needs.

Furthermore, it provides Petron Gasul valuable information about its retail clientele's concerns and service requirements, thus allowing it to foster strong customer ties and maintain good relations with its market.

Own a home theater via Citibank Paylite

AUDIO Visual Driver International Phils. (AVDI) and Citibank have linked up to make world-class home theater set-ups and equipment more accessible to consumers.

Through the Paylite scheme, Citibank cardholders may avail of 0-percent interest for selected speakers purchased from the AVDI showroom located at Level 4, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City.

Among the products included in the Citibank Paylite scheme are Energy Tempest Indoor/Outdoor Speakers (for as low as P2,750 a month for six months) and Energy Encore Home Theater Speaker System, which includes four satellite speakers, one center channel, and one powered subwoofer, at P13,750 a month.

Also offered are other home theater and audio-video items at reduced Paylite rates purchased through any Citibank card.

This paylite scheme is offered until Oct. 15. For details, call 638-8481 or 632-7984.

Progress premiere launch

TO DISSEMINATE one of the more significant medical breakthroughs of late, the Philippine Neurological Association, in cooperation with Servier Philippines, recently gathered local brain and heart specialists at the Edsa Shangri-La for a premiere launch of the landmark study called Progress (Perindopril Protection Against Recurrent Stroke Study).

Dr. Joven Cuanang, president of the Stroke Society of the Philippines, presented the results of Progress, a study designed to address the issue of secondary prevention of brain attack or stroke and lowering of blood pressure. Progress results showed a 28 percent reduction of stroke, with a much better result among the Asians included in the sample, who showed a 37 percent reduction rate. There was also a 50 percent reduction in strokes due to ruptured blood vessels in the brain, and a 38 percent reduction in heart attacks.

According to the World Health Organization, stroke or brain attack is the no. 2 killer worldwide, and is actually the leading cause of death in Asia, particularly here in the Western Pacific, China and Japan. About 20 million people worldwide suffer a stroke every year, with a corresponding 5 million deaths. And, at any given time, there are 15 million stroke survivors, helplessly awaiting that second stroke, which could finally end their lives.

According to Dr. Cuanang, in the Philippines alone stroke occurs at an annual rate of 500 per 100,000 of our population, and there are an estimated 400,000 of our countrymen who have lived through a first stroke, who are also living in fear of a second.

The results of Progress, which have been acclaimed by experts worldwide as nothing short of spectacular, should have far reaching benefits for the Filipino patients.

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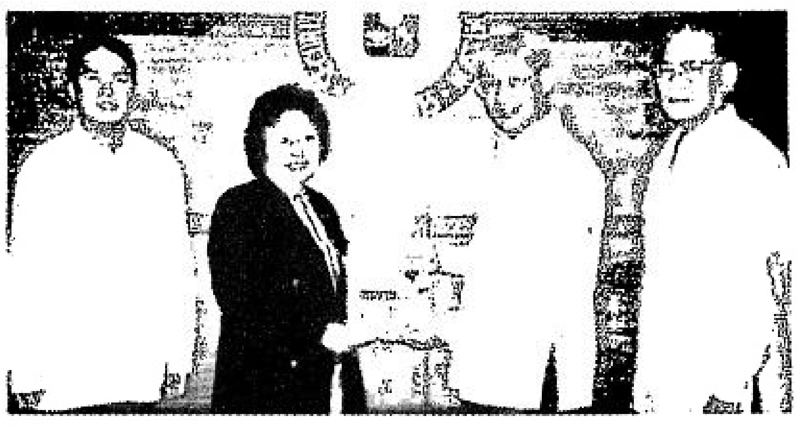
IN SUPPORT OF GMA FOUNDATION

EQUITABLE PCI Bank president and CEO Sonny N. Vistan turns over some of the bank's book donations to GMA Foundation Inc. operations manager Julieta G. Gallos, in support of the Foundation's 'Donate-A-Book and Educational Materials' Project. In support of the project, Equitable PCI Bank held a month-long solicitation drive among its employees in its Makati head office and in its Metro Manila branches. Through the Equitable PCI Bankers' kindness and generosity, over 2,000 brand new and slightly used school supplies, textbooks, story books, magazines and other reference materials were donated.

PANAMSAT EXECS VISIT ABS-CBN

Top executives of its satellite partner PanAmSat recently paid a courtesy call to its client network, ABS-CBN Broadcasting. PanAmSat's president and CEO Douglas Kahn and director for Asia-Pacific region Ruth Sweetman were welcomed by ABS-CBN chair and CEO Eugenio Lopez III and SVP for business development Jose Ramon Olives. PanAmSat is a leading provider of global video and data broadcasting services via satellite. ABS-CBN, the country's top broadcasting firm, leases transponder services from the PanAmSat satellite to enable broadcast of its programs nationwide and to other parts of the world. Shown are (left) ABS-CBN's Eugenio Lopez III and PanAmSat's Douglas Kahn.



2001 TOP 5000 TURNOVER

CIBI Information Inc. President and CEO Cayetano W. Paderanga, Jr. hands over the 2001 edition of 'Philippines Top 5000 Corporation' book to SEC Chairman Lilia R. Bautista. Others in photo are Jaime C. Laya, Chairman, CIBI Foundation Inc.' and Arturo M. San Gil, SEC Director, Economic Research and Information Department.

HEALTHY 'HOPIA'

New Polland Baker's Fair, considered the country's pioneer and top mongo 'hopia'-maker, has launched its new concept booths at SM outlets, Robinsons Galleria, Landmark, Avenida, Rosario and Benavides Streets, Binondo, Ever Grand Central, Robinsons Novaliches and Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall. Shown above is a child sampling newly baked 'hopia' specialties made from natural ingredients—mongo, pork, 'pina', 'condol', 'hapon', and 'ube,' among others. New Polland Baker's Fair main shop is at 670 Mayon Street, Quezon City while its first provincial branch at Iloilo Supermarket opens Oct. 10.

US files antitrust suit vs Computer Associates

WASHINGTON—The US Justice Department on Friday filed a civil antitrust lawsuit against software group Computer Associates (CA) and Platinum Technology, claiming they violated pre-merger waiting period requirements and price fixing laws.

The suit seeks a penalty of $1.27 million for alleged illegal price fixing ahead of their 1999 merger, a practice known as "gun jumping," and that CA effectively took control of its rival before the merger was approved.

Computer Associates, a large business software group, acquired Platinum for $3.5 billion after an agreement with antitrust officials preventing certain competitive activities during a specified waiting period.

The complaint said Platinum discounted its services by more than 20 percent during the review period.

"By assuming control of Platinum before the expiration of the required waiting period while the Justice Department was investigating the legality of the proposed acquisition, Computer Associates failed to obey the law," said Charles James, head of the antitrust division.

"This conduct prematurely reduced competition between the companies."

In a statement, Computer Associates called the complaint "unfounded" and said officials "never questioned those provisions until two months after it had approved the transaction."

"From the moment we announced our intention to acquire Platinum until the DOJ (Department of Justice) approved the transaction, CA acted reasonably and lawfully," said Steven Woghin, senior vice president and general counsel.

"We have been cooperating fully with the DOJ for the past two and a half years, and we are extremely disappointed by their actions today." *Agence France-Presse*

UK hackers crack Sudan Bank, collect bin Laden data

A NEWSBYTES.COM report said a group of UK-based hackers has cracked computers at the AlShamal Islamic Bank in Sudan and collected data on the accounts of the Al Qaeda terrorist organization and its leader Osama bin Laden.

According to the report, Kim Schmitz, a flamboyant German hacker/businessman made the claim. Schmitz, who has offered a $10 million reward for the capture of Bin Laden, said the information has been turned over to the FBI, the Newbsytes report said.

Bin Laden, reportedly a millionaire Saudi exile whose base is now Afghanistan, is suspected of being the mastermind behind the deadly Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

According to Newsbytes, Schmitz's claim has not been confirmed and that an FBI spokesman in Washington declined to confirm or deny the story, saying that the agency's policy is not to comment on information and leads it is receiving

Newbytes quoted the FBI spokesman as saying, "We have received a lot of information on this case. Of course we appreciate the leads we are receiving from the public, but we cannot confirm what specific information has been provided to us or by whom."

The Newsbytes.com report also said Schmitz, 27, a former teen hacking prodigy who spent time behind bars before starting a successful data security business, has been accused of being press hungry, although he claims his recent strong anti-terrorism pronouncements are not a PR prank, but stem from his strong desire to wipe out terrorism.

According to Newsbytes.com, the bank Schmitz claimed was hacked was mentioned Wednesday by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich. during a Senate Banking Committee hearing.

Schmitz reportedly told Newsbytes that he could not provide details about what hackers found in AlShamal Islamic Bank's computers or about the hackers themselves.

Newsbytes.com also quoted Schmitz as saying that numerous hackers have expressed their to hack the said bank and look into Bin Laden's supposed bank account.

Chinese online dissidents undergo trial for subversion

FOUR Chinese professionals accused of subversion by the government were tried on Friday at Beijing's No. 1 Intermediate People's Court, but a lawyer for the accused said it could be a month before the verdict is known, a Reuters report said.

The Reuters report said the four—reporter Xu Wei, website engineer Yang Zili, geological engineer Jin Haike and freelance writer Zhang Honghai—were tried for founding the "New Youth Study Group," which discussed political reforms.

Reuters quoted the lawyer of one of the accused as saying that "The court should come out with a verdict within a month or so, but it could be a little longer or shorter."

According to the Reuters report, the group met in web chat rooms and subsequently held weekly seminars where they exchanged views and invited lecturers from Beijing universities to speak on historical and contemporary problems, their family and friends have said.

The court presented testimony against the group from three fellow members who were detained with them in March but later released, said the girlfriend of Xu Wei, Wang Ying, who was at the trial, the Reuters report said.

Friends and family have reportedly campaigned fiercely for the group's release, arguing the online forum was informally organized for the purposes of exchanging views.

But analysts say Beijing, fearful of any public dissent, has been able to tighten the noose on some intellectuals because they communicate over the Internet, Reuters reported.

HCL acquires stake in German firm

BANGALORE, India—HCL Technologies Ltd., India's fifth largest software exporter, announced Wednesday it had acquired a 51 percent stake in Deutsche Software Ltd., a subsidiary of Germany's Deutsche Bank AG.

HCL said it would acquire the rest of Deutsche Software at the end of three years by issuing HCL Technology shares to Deutsche Bank.

"It is a cash transaction," said Shiv Nadar, chair and chief executive officer of HCL Technologies, referring to his company's 51 percent stake. He declined to divulge the exact amount paid.

"I believe that this joint venture will enable us to consolidate our domain expertise in financial services space and deliver high value services to our customers across the globe," Nadar told reporters here.

"HCL Technologies has focused on partnership-led growth and this alliance is an important move forward in this direction. It took a year of negotiations to seal the deal," he said.

Nadar said the joint entity is aiming at a turnover of $100 million in the next three years. He said the partnership will provide Deutsche Software with access to HCL Technologies' extensive offshore capabilities, which include more than 4,000 technology and project management professionals based in 14 centers in India. The joint venture will also aim to tap into the $4-billion IT budget of Deutsche Bank.

"The joint venture is consistent with our strategy to smartsource services through a competitive sourcing model," said Mitchel Lenson, chief information officer of Corporate Investment Bank, Deutsche Bank.

"The partnership with HCL Technologies provides us with an opportunity to leverage our combined capabilities and resources to build a market-leading software solutions company and also reduce our technology costs," Lenson said.

The venture also provided HCL Technologies with a strong platform to strengthen its global presence in the financial services market.

Deutsche Software has more than 450 software engineers with experience in banking applications and technology based at its center in Bangalore.

It performs consulting and software engineering projects for the Deutsche Bank group from Bangalore and in Frankfurt, Singapore, London and New York.

HCL Technologies exported software worth 1.2 billion rupees ($239 million) in the fiscal year that ended in March.

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Phones with video streaming tested

NTT DoCoMo Inc. announced recently that the company's "FOMA"-brand third-generation (3G) mobile communications service has been adopted by Takenaka Corporation, Japan's leading construction company, as the mobile network in a business solution field trial. According to NTT DoCoMo, Takenaka will begin the trial on Oct. 1, 2001, the same day that DoCoMo will launch its fully commercialized FOMA service. The trial is planned to finish around the end of March 2002. During the trial, Takenaka employeeswill use FOMA handsets for video streaming, taking and transmitting still pictures, and real-time video monitoring. FOMA handsets are reportedly equipped with built-in cameras and video screens will be used for real-time video monitoring.

THE FOMA mobile phones

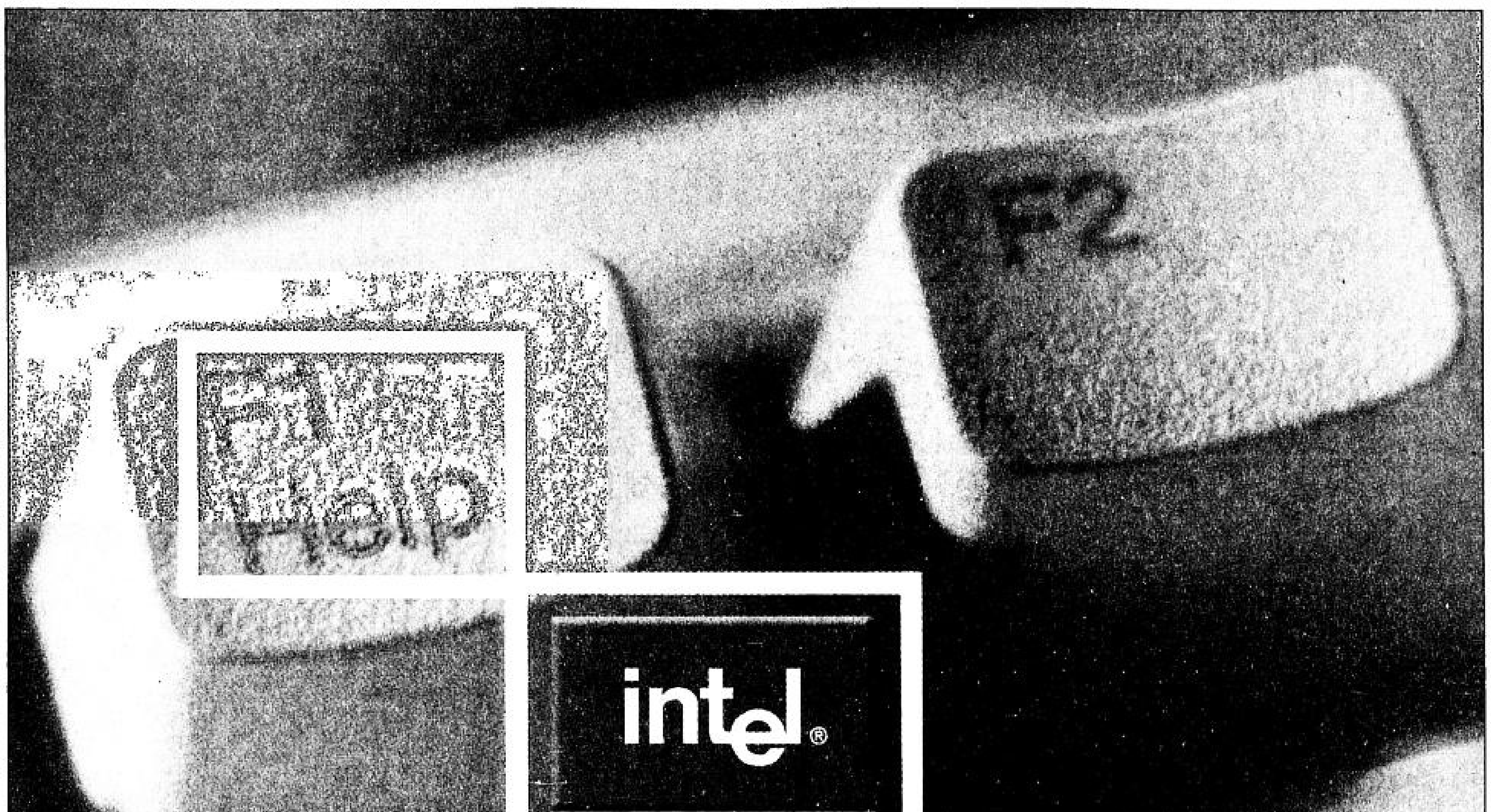
A News.com report also said the Japanese phone giant NTT DoCoMo is set unveil the world's fastest phone network plus three new phones capable of things like real-time videoconferencing or sending and receiving e-mail attachments with 10,000 characters.

The report said the network will be first turned on in the Tokyo area, where some 5,000 residents have been using it on a trial basis since May. It will then spread throughout the country in the coming months.

"We are more than ready," NTT DoCoMo president Keiji Tachikawa told News.com

The least expensive of NTT's three phones, the FOMA P2401, costs $250. The most expensive is the FOMA P2101V, which is priced at $501. Panasonic/Matsushita Communications Industrial and NEC manufacture the phones.

According to News.com, if and when the network goes up on Monday, it will either be the first in the world or the second, depending on who is doing the boasting, as Korean cell phone users have also been using a third-generation network, with its accompanying always-on capabilities that zoom calls and data at broadband speeds, from mobile phone maker Qualcomm.



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Sun calls for support in network identity project

SUN Microsystems has announced that it is partnering with other industry leaders to establish business and technology solutions to provide an open, federated solution for network identity, in an initiative called the Liberty Alliance Project (www.projectliberty.org).

The charter members of the Liberty Alliance Project, representing a billion names across customers, business partners and employees, intend to create an open, federated solution for network identity—enabling ubiquitous single sign-on across multiple websites, and eventually across multiple devices connected to the Internet.

The service will provide distributed authentication, and open, platform-neutral network authorization, from any device connected to the Internet, from traditional desktop computers and cellular phones to credit cards, automobiles and point-of-sale terminals.

As a charter member, Sun Microsystems represents its extensive developer community, customers and employees and will play a role in developing products based on the new standards.

"Competition and innovation can only thrive in a free, open marketplace," said Scott McNealy, Chair and CEO of Sun Microsystems Inc. "The Liberty Alliance Project is driving an open standard for what we believe will be the defining issue of the networked economy: digital identity. This project will enable interoperable identity, single sign-on, security, universal acceptance, and a level playing field for all providers of online services. No one can do this alone, which is why we're proud to be a part of a world-class alliance whose goal is to make this a reality by federating the billions of identity entries throughout the world."

Sun has experience in cultivating an open developer community through dedicating many of its best minds to the effort. As such, the company is committed to endorsing and deploying Liberty-compliant technologies and implementations the industry can use widely while being part of a collaborative effort to create common standards. At a later date Sun anticipates announcing Liberty-enabled products of its own.

Any organization interested in joining the Liberty Alliance Project can visit http://www.projectliberty.org for additional information.

Intel Corporation intros wireless program for cars

CHIP manufacturer Intel Corporation introduced recently a new program designed to help developers successfully build products and services that deliver wireless voice and data information to vehicles and other "in-dash" automobile systems known collectively as telematics.

Intel has also established the Intel Telematics Design Center which is expected to provide web-based development and technical support for designing navigation, multimedia, hands-free phone, and other in-car Internet products and applications using Intel StrongARM and forthcoming Intel XScale-based processors.

"The increasing consumer demand for driver safety and security, voice-activated communications, location-based services and multimedia entertainment has spurred significant interest by a number of manufacturers and service providers," said Pat Kerrigan, director of marketing for Intel's Telematics Operation.

"The Intel Telematics Design Center will provide these developers with the tools, information and designs that can accelerate product development with less investment."

The Intel StrongARM SA-1110 processor is designed to benefit a wide variety of telematics devices and applications.

The Intel StrongARM processor and upcoming processors based on the Intel XScale microarchitecture have the flexibility to handle requirements for both ultra-low power and high performance to efficiently perform compute-intensive tasks such as speech recognition, text to speech, MP3 decode, route calculation, and map rendering.

Developers can immediately access the Intel Telematics Design Center at www.intel.com/design/wireless/telematics/designcenter.

The design center is a part of the Intel Personal Internet Client Architecture (Intel PCA) Developer Network announced in August.

The Intel PCA Developer Network offers wireless companies development, technical and marketing support—including access to more than 300 tools—for designing cell phones, personal digital assistants (PDAs) and other mobile Internet devices and applications supporting Intel PCA.

Intel PCA is an open hardware and software architecture that accelerates the development of wireless Internet devices and applications.

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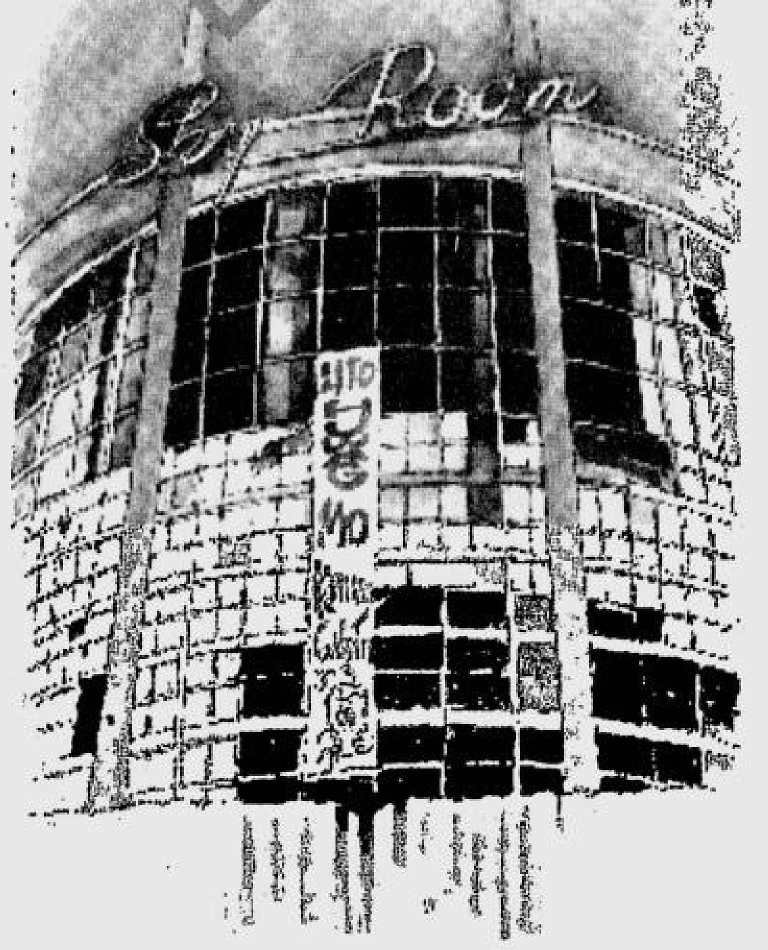
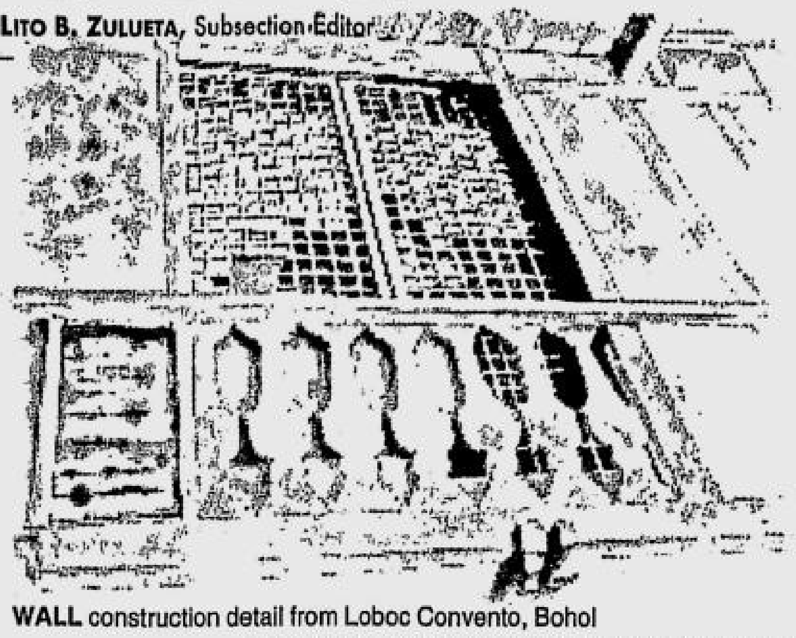


JAI-ALAI Building in Manila. Designed by architect Welton Beckett in 1930, demolished in 2000



WALL construction detail from Loboc Convento, Bohol

ARTWORK BY FERDINAND DOCTOLERO, COURTESY OF BOOKMARK

Heritage sites in watercolor

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

FOR THE RECENTLY launched book, "Lugar: Essays on Philippine Heritage Places," Bookmark Inc. commissioned over 60 watercolors to illustrate the heritage places written about in the book. The watercolors were done by Ferdinand Doctolero, a well respected artist.

The original artwork will be on exhibit and sale at the Hotel Inter-Continental Gallery, Makati on Oct. 3-22. Proceeds of the sale will benefit the Heritage Conservation Society (HCS). A special arrangement with the artist and gallery will grant HCS members a 20-percent discount on the sale price of the artwork.

Doctolero is an award-winning mixed-media artist, graphic designer and book illustrator. He graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts and is presently a candidate for a master in fine arts in UP.

Doctolero won the Noma Concours for Picture Book Illustration, Unesco-Apcu in Tokyo (1988). He also won the Asean Art Awards in Indonesia (1995) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Postage Stamp Design Contest in Japan (1997). He was a finalist in the Philip Morris Awards from 1994 to 1997. He won Juror's Choice for his entries to the Philippine Art Awards Competitions of 1994, 1996 and 1997. He placed second in the Metrobank National Painting Competition (oil category) in 1990.

He is an instructor in fine arts at the Technological University of the Philippines and conducts painting and drawing classes at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila and the Ayala Museum in Makati.

To illustrate "Lugar," Doctolero referred to archival photographs of the chosen sites and backed his research with visits to as many sites as possible in order to capture the true feeling of the historic places.

The HCS is a nonstock, nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to the protection of Philippine heri-

HERITAGE/ p.E5

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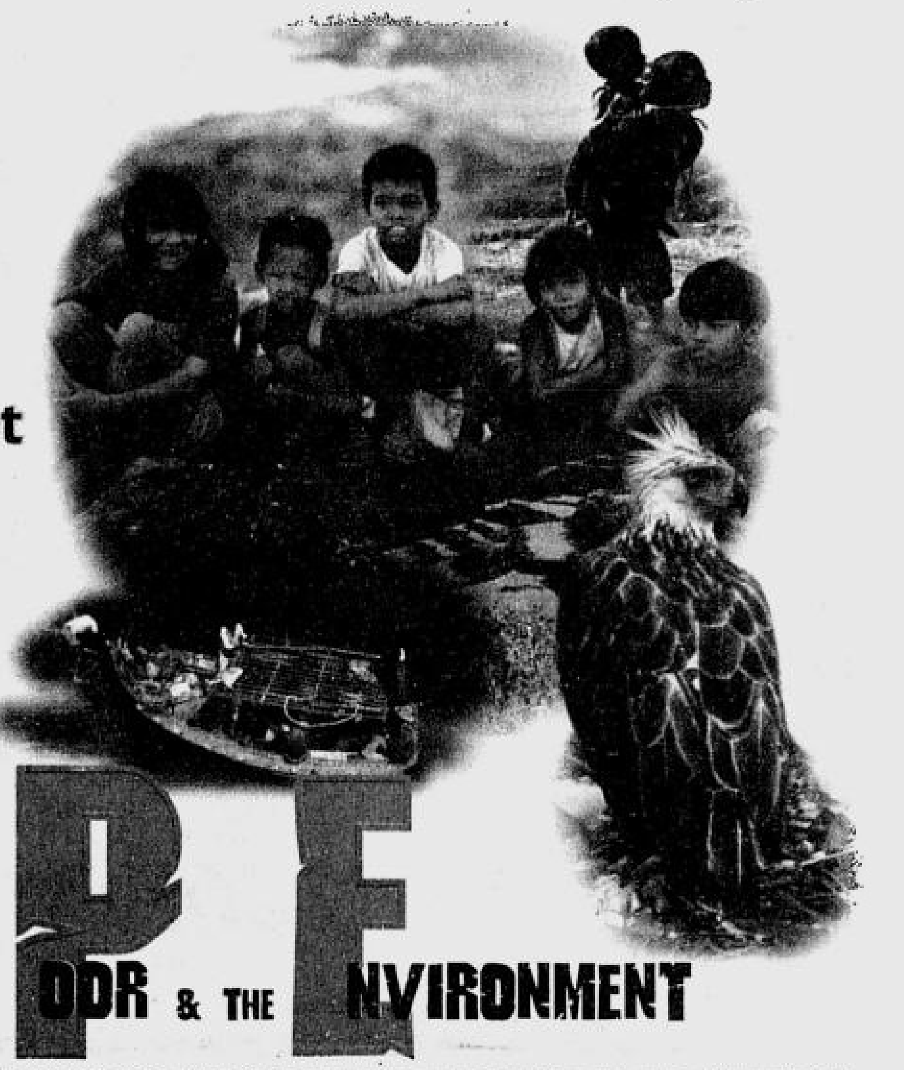

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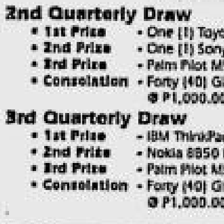

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- 2nd Prize - One (1) Sony Wega 73.66cm (29") TV
- 3rd Prize - Palm Pilot M505
- Consolation - Forty (40) Gift Checks from 1st e-Bank @ P1,000.00 (10 per region)

3rd Quarterly Draw
- 1st Prize - IBM ThinkPad i-Series
- 2nd Prize - Nokia 8850 Mobile Phone with SIM Card
- 3rd Prize - Palm Pilot M505
- Consolation - Forty (40) Gift Checks from 1st e-Bank @ P1,000.00 (10 per region)

Grand Draw Prizes
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- 2nd Prize - One (1) Home Entertainment Package
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2nd Quarter Draw
Toyota
Revo-DLX
1st Prize
Grand Draw
Toyota
Revo-SR

See posters and leaflets for details.

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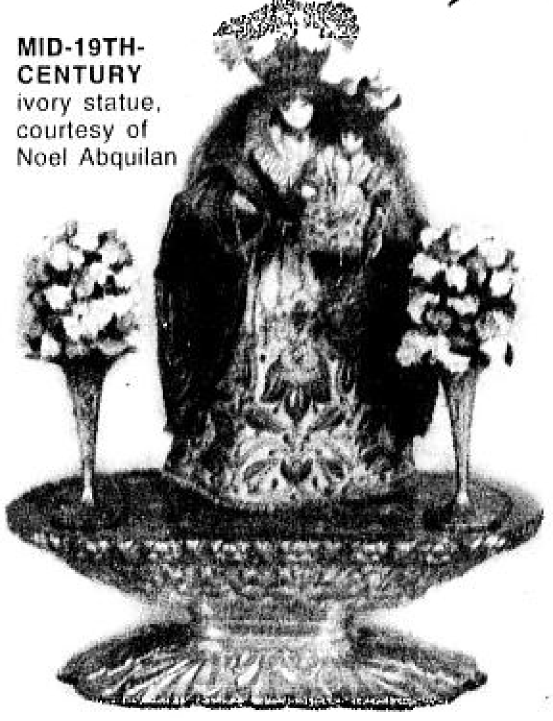
La Naval, Marian art treasures at Museo Dominiko



MID-19TH-CENTURY ivory statue, courtesy of Noel Abquilan

THE DOMINICAN fathers are inviting the faithful who have a special devotion to the Holy Rosary to view the exhibit "N.S. del Rosario" at the Museo Dominiko on Oct. 4-14 in the convent grounds of Sto. Domingo Church, QC.

This exhibit is sponsored by the Friends of San Jacinto and Kapatid (Si Kristo ang Patutunguhan sa Tulong ng Ina ng Diyos), the rosary promotion group composed of student-brothers of the Dominican Order. For several years now, an exhibit that showcases the different aspects of Mariology has been regarded as a fitting side-event to the feast of the La Naval de Manila, which commemorates the victory of the undermanned Catholic Spanish and Filipino defenders over the vastly superior Protestant Dutch invaders in the 17th century. The victories have been attributed through the centuries to the intercession of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary.

La Naval chaplain Fr. Roger Quirao, O.P., has supervised the mounting of the exhibit with the help of production designers Rei Nicolas and Gino Marasigan. The new conventual prior, Fr. Herminio Dagohoy, O.P, will officiate the opening on Oct. 4 right after the Enthronement Mass of the centuries-old image of La Naval de Manila.

MADE of *batikuling* wood, this statue in oval frame is from the collection of Rei Nicolas

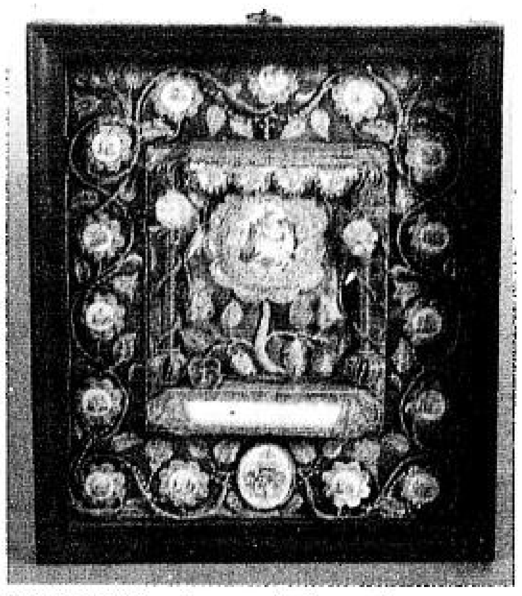
Since the medieval era, when the Blessed Virgin revealed the powers of the rosary to St. Dominic, countless representations in the form of prints, paintings or images dressed in richly embroidered outfits have evolved honoring Our Lady under the venerated title of Nuestra Señora del Rosario. The exhibit aims to present these various styles and art forms that master craftsmen have labored through different periods in time.

This year's exhibit presents the heirloom ivory images of Carmen Reyes and the Roces family. Rei Nicolas has lent a wide array of Del Rosario memorabilia from prints to reliefs and paintings. The Joven and Panlilio families have offered the processional image of Bacolor, Pampanga. Other attractions are "Del Rosario" from the collection of Francisco Vecin and ivory images with Chinese and mestiza features in elegant glass *viriñas* from Noel Abquilan, Jerome de Jesus, Dr. Raffy Lopez and Manny Castro.

From Ting Escobar come the beautifully preserved antique rosaries in pearls, corals and other semiprecious stones. The vault of the Sto. Domingo Shrine contributes the replica of Our Lady of Manaoag and La Japonesa, believed to have been brought by the Dominican missions to Japan during the time of San Lorenzo Ruiz.

LA Virgen Japonesa, from the vault of the Sto. Domingo Convent

It all started with the greeting of an angel to Mary, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee." And the devotion to the Rosary has not only deepened the spiritual fervor of the faithful but has changed our world by inspiring artists, through the ages, to create various art forms and styles that superbly represent the Blessed Virgin with the Holy Child under the venerated title N.S. del Rosario.



EXQUISITE antique print from the Dominican Fathers' Collection

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Per DTI-NCR permit no. 2774, series of 2001.

Cause . . . (From page E3)

prayer is the Our Lady of Medjugorje Prayer Group.

La Naval novena

FR. Roger Quirao, O.P., says that the enthronement of Our Lady of La Naval in the main altar of Sto. Domingo Church will take place on Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m. The nine-day novena begins on Oct. 5 at 6:50 a.m., 11:50 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., until Oct. 13. The feast day falls on Oct. 14.

How to heal the wounding

AN E-MAIL from a friend who is deeply wounded by what happened at the World Trade Center wrote: "The Talibans consider singing a form of cowardice. But we have to sing. The artists of America had to sing in 'Tribute to Heroes.' The soul speaks and we listen and we sing. On St. Gabriel's wings, our songs are carried, so the wounding can be healed."

From Deepak Chopra

WELL-KNOWN writer Deepak Chopra, M.D., posted "A Deeper Wounding" on Sept. 12 on the Institute of Noetic Sciences website discussion board about the attack on the World Trade Center: "If you and I are having a single thought of violence or hatred against anyone in the world at this moment, we are contributing to the wounding of the world."

I love Jesus, hence this poem

FROM ALICE Padlan's e-mail comes a challenge: "Do you love Jesus?" If you do, send this poem to 10 people you know. I love Jesus, so I am sending this to my readers.

I knelt to pray but not for long
I had too much to do
I had to hurry and get a work
For bills would soon be due.

So I knelt and said a hurried prayer
And jumped up off my knees
My Christian duty was now done
My soul could rest at ease.

All day long I had no time
To spread a word of cheer
No time to speak of Christ to friends
They'd laugh at me I'd fear.

No time, no time, too much to do
That was my constant cry
No time to give to souls in need
But at last the time, the time to die.

I went before the Lord
I came, I stood with downcast eyes
For in his hands God held a book
It was the book of life.

God looked into his book and said
"Your name I cannot find
"I once was going to write it down
"But never found the time."

Now do you have the time to pass this on?

Cause for beatification of Filipino bishop introduced

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

WHEN Bishop Alfredo Ma. Obviar passed away on Oct. 1, 1978 in a hospital at age 89, news about miraculous healings in his tomb began to spread. The tomb of the late bishop, the first bishop of Lucena, is located in the convent of the Missionary Catechists of St. Therese (MCST) in Tayabas, Quezon. Here, people come to pray and ask for healing.

One miraculous healing involved a woman suffering from cancer of the stomach, according to Mother Rene Rarela, superior of the order. All she knows is that the woman is still alive and working. At the time of her illness, she was working at the DECS in Lucena.

Doctors had given up on this sick woman. So she traveled to the tomb of the bishop and prayed for healing. While kneeling on his tomb, the woman felt warmth. The pain slowly faded away and she felt a lightness of being.

It was businessman Danny Dolor who told me about Bishop Obviar. On Sept. 22, which we found out later to be the first day of the novena to St. Therese of the Child Jesus, Danny brought Jojo Silvestre and me to Tayabas.

The MCST order, which the bishop founded on Aug. 12, 1958, lives and works in a sprawling area where buildings were slowly built through the years. Here, 60 nuns live and work on their charism of spreading the good news by teaching catechism to adults and children. There are actually 287 MCST nuns in the Philippines and other countries, including two nuns in Castel-Gandolfo, Italy where the Pope spends his summer retreats.

The documents requesting for the beatification of the late Bishop Obviar were brought to the Vatican by Lucena Bishop Ruben Profugo and Cebu Bishop Antonio Ranola. The cause was recommended by Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, who was still a young priest when Bishop Obviar died.

Before his death, Bishop Obviar turned over the chaplaincy of the MCST order to Father Vidal, who later became a bishop, then a cardinal. The cause was submitted on Jan. 4, 2000 and the *nihil obstat* signaling the start of the beatification process was written on the documents in March 2000.

The MCST order is still collecting testimonies of healing and answered prayers. Please write to Mother Rene Rarela, Missionary Catechists of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus, Tayabas, Quezon. Those who want to arrange for retreats can call (042) 793-2990.

As a testimony to his life's work, a museum for the late bishop was started by Mother Mercy Medenilla in 1997 and continued by Mother Rene Rarela with the help of Danny Dolor who heads the Maka-Obviar Foundation that is pursuing the beatification.

Known for his holiness, the bishop in his lifetime encouraged priests to pray the Liturgy of the Hours. A Marian devotee, Bishop Obviar had in his right hand the Holy Rosary most of the time.

A devotee of St. Therese, it is said that during the last hours of the bishop, a nun unknown to those present was present. Many surmised that it could have been St. Therese. Those who want a prayer for Bishop Obviar's beatification can write me.

Opus Dei is 73

OPUS Dei was founded by Blessed Josemaria Escriva in Madrid on Oct. 2, 1928, which makes it 73 years old tomorrow.

Blessed Escriva believed that one could be sanctified through one's work. He also believed that the Holy Mass was the center and root of the interior life. Now I understand why my friends Susan and Efren Laureola, who are Opus Dei cooperators, go to Mass every day.

Like all saints before him, Blessed Escriva lived a holy life. The founder of the Opus Dei was beatified on May 17, 1992 in Rome after a miraculous cure was attributed to his intercession. His mortal remains rest at the Prelatic Church of Our Lady of Peace in Viale Bruno Buozzi, Rome.

Angel exhibit

THE CELESTIAL Angel Society Foundation is opening an angel exhibit at the San Agustin Museum on Oct. 2, feast of the Angels, with a Holy Mass at 5:30 p.m. in the main church. This year's theme is "St. Gabriel, Messenger of God." The *hermanos mayores* are Amelita Rodriguez Tengco and Ito Curata.

At least 40 images of angels belonging to the San Agustin Museum and private collectors will be displayed. The present president of the Angel Society is Jerry Salazar.

A book of praise and prayers

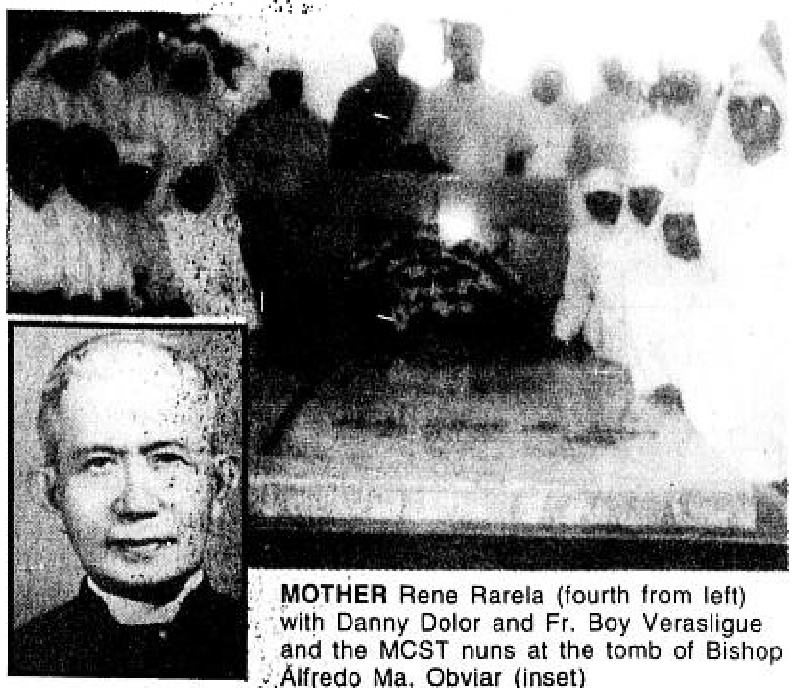
ALFONSO O. Parlade, Knight of Columbus in the St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Fort Bonifacio, Makati, wrote his angel experience in his book titled "While There Is Light in My Eyes" (a book of praise and prayers).

Although he is visually impaired, Brother Alfonso was still able to write the book about the purity of our faith, its pristine beauty and its irresistible logic, which could only come from God. Please call him at 728-1525 for copies of the book.

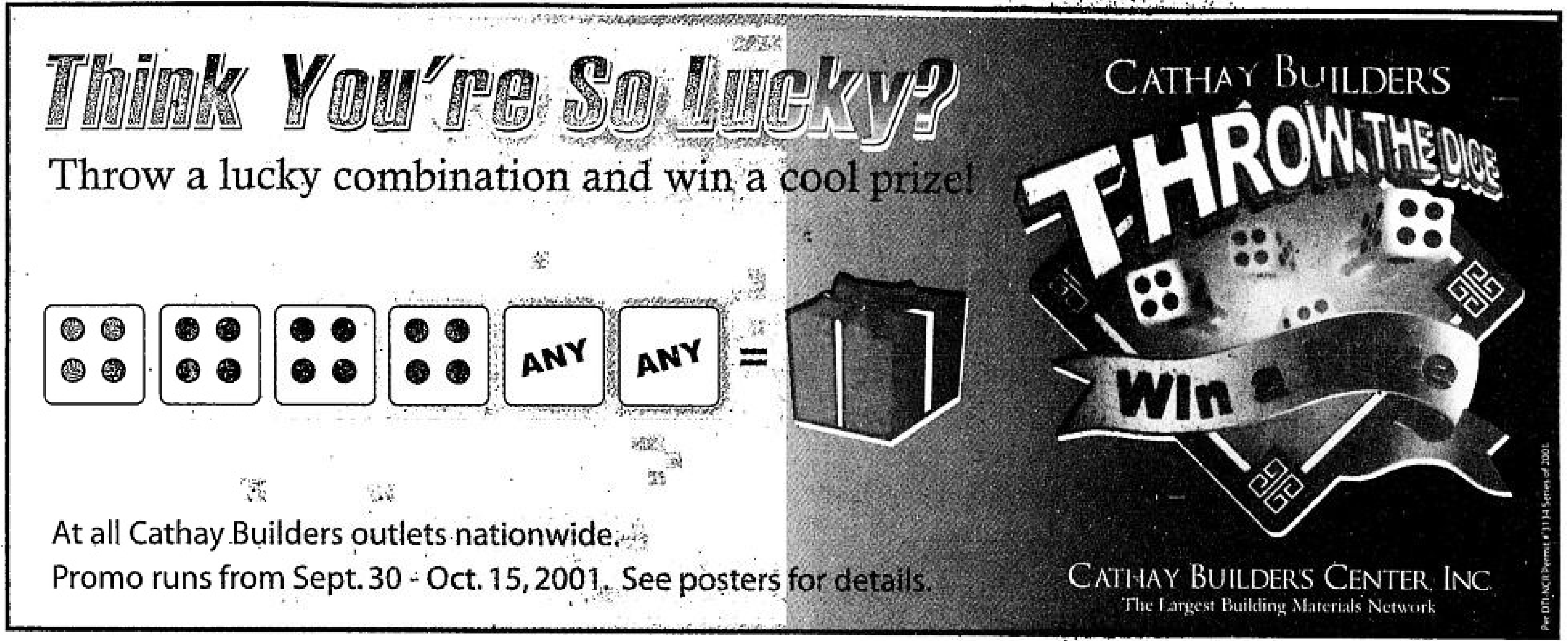
2,000 'Hail Mary's'

THE QUEEN of Peace Parish in Queen's Row, Bacoor, Cavite will hold the praying of the 2,000 "Hail Mary's," at 8 a.m. on Oct. 6. Leading the

CAUSE/ p.E2



MOTHER Rene Rarela (fourth from left) with Danny Dolor and Fr. Boy Veraslígue and the MCST nuns at the tomb of Bishop Alfredo Ma. Obviar (inset)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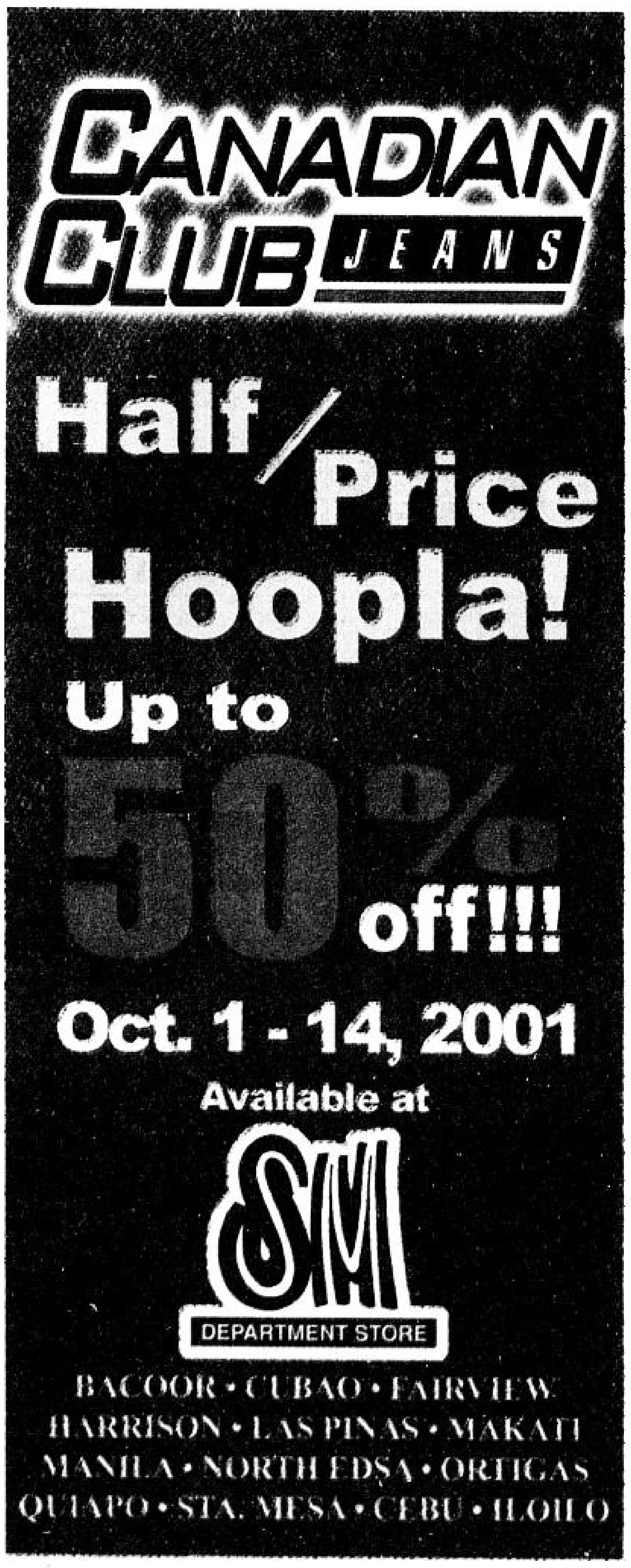
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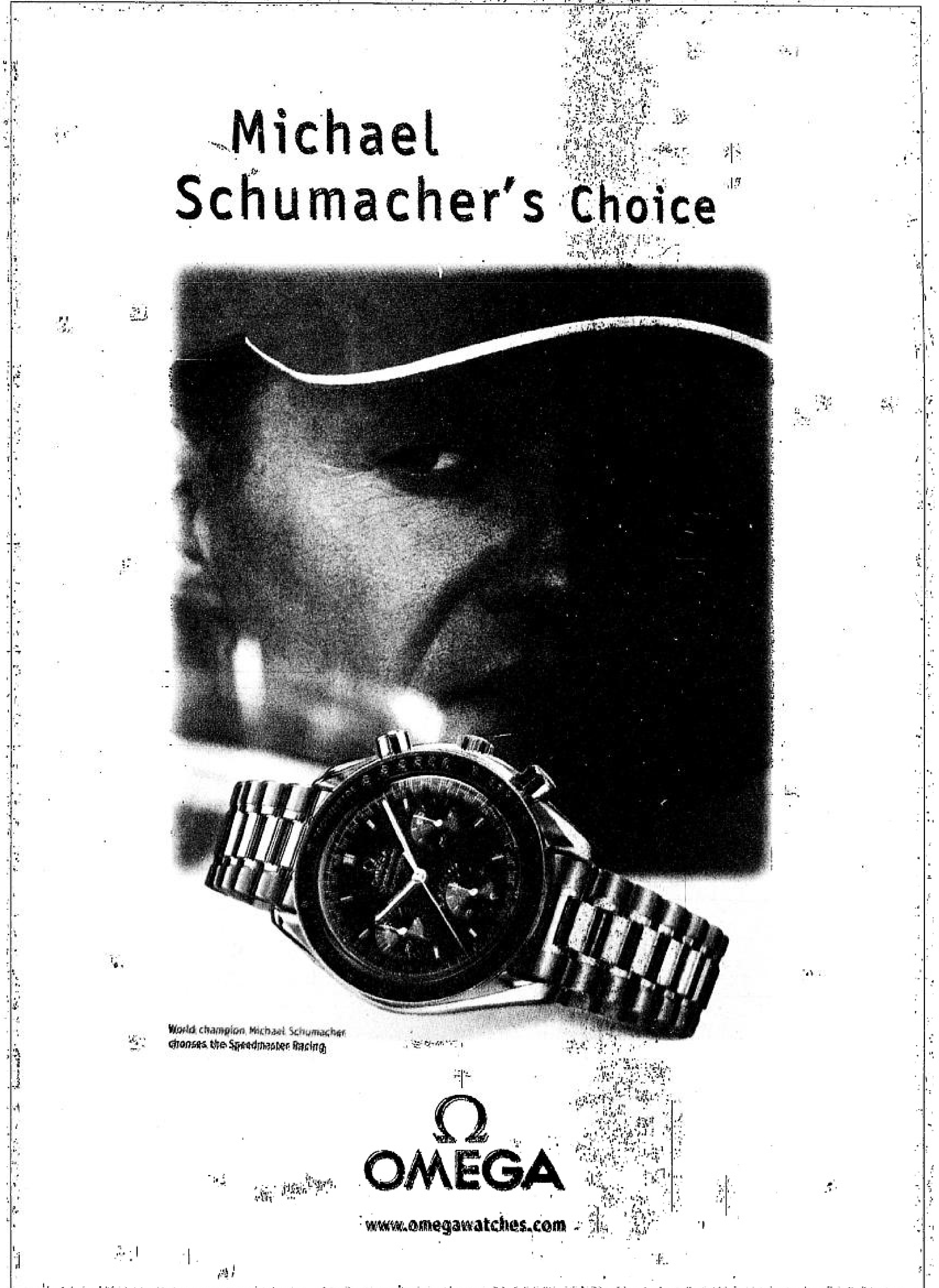
Michael Schumacher's Choice
World champion Michael Schumacher chooses the Speedmaster Racing
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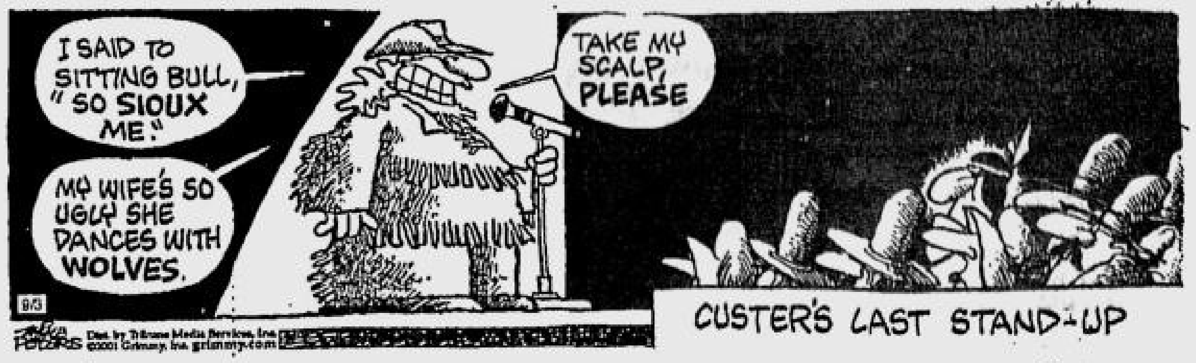
COMIC Relief

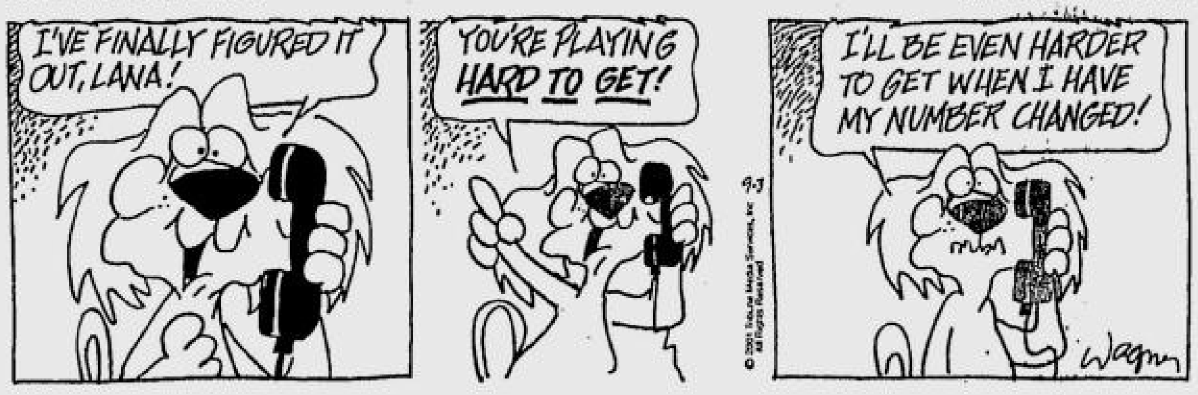
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I SAID TO SITTING BULL, "SO SIOUX ME."
MY WIFE'S SO UGLY SHE DANCES WITH WOLVES.
TAKE MY SCALP, PLEASE
CUSTER'S LAST STAND-UP
8/3
Peters
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2001 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com

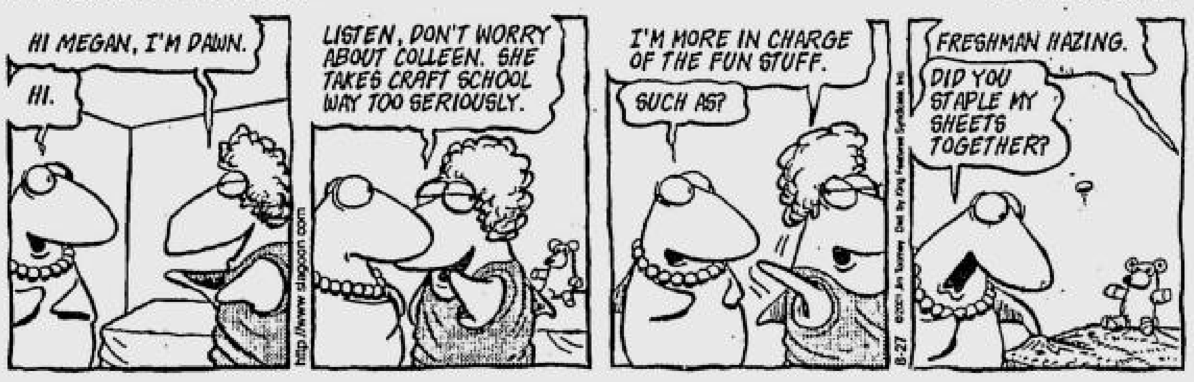
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


I'VE FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT, LANA!
YOU'RE PLAYING HARD TO GET!
I'LL BE EVEN HARDER TO GET WHEN I HAVE MY NUMBER CHANGED!
9-3
Wagner

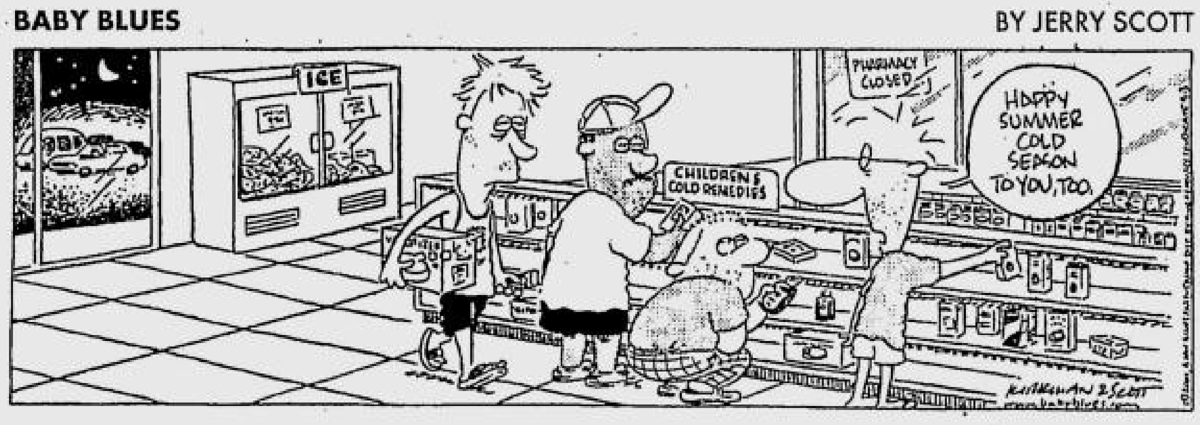
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HI MEGAN, I'M DAWN.
HI.
LISTEN, DON'T WORRY ABOUT COLLEEN. SHE TAKES CRAFT SCHOOL WAY TOO SERIOUSLY.
I'M MORE IN CHARGE OF THE FUN STUFF.
SUCH AS?
FRESHMAN HAZING.
DID YOU STAPLE MY SHEETS TOGETHER?
http://www.slagoon.com
8-27

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


ICE
PHARMACY CLOSED
CHILDREN'S COLD REMEDIES
HAPPY SUMMER COLD SEASON TO YOU, TOO.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julie Andrews, Walter Matthau, Richard Harris, George Peppard, Mary McFadden

Happy Birthday: You will be in the mood to take action this year and much can be accomplished as long as you don't take on too much. You will have great innovative ideas and the drive to push hard but you may also make snap decisions which is not like you that will lead to regrets at a later date. You will be sensitive to romantic issues and should put time aside to nurture your relationship. Your numbers: 6, 7, 10, 22, 26, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Play by the rules but don't hesitate to take the help being offered. You don't have to do everything by yourself. This is a great day to network and mingle with people who have similar interests and more experience.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Social events will lead to interesting romantic connections. Your charm will be captivating. You will have fun changing your image and sprucing up your wardrobe.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A little overtime will help you get a head start on the work scheduled for the week. You need to use up some of that nervous energy you have left over from the weekend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): This is a great day to reflect and make decisions regarding your future. Take a long look at your present direction and consider your professional options. Education may be the answer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should be focusing on your investments as well as your spending habits. Don't be generous to a fault. Sudden changes in your relationship may send you for a loop but the end result will be to your benefit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your practical approach to life will charm someone who has been observing you. Be sure to express your interest if you want the relationship to progress.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): . Put your efforts into professional changes and gains. You will receive recognition for a job well done if you put in some overtime. You will have more discipline when it comes to controlling bad habits.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will be highly entertaining when in contact with friends or someone who has sparked your interest. Your intellectual charm will win hearts and bring opportunities that you least expect.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotions will be flying high at home. Don't count on getting any help from those you live with. Things will be hectic and family members will be irresponsible. Take care of the necessary chores .

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make financial gains if you call a few people that can help you with your personal investments . Your sensitivity toward those you love will bring you the help you need.

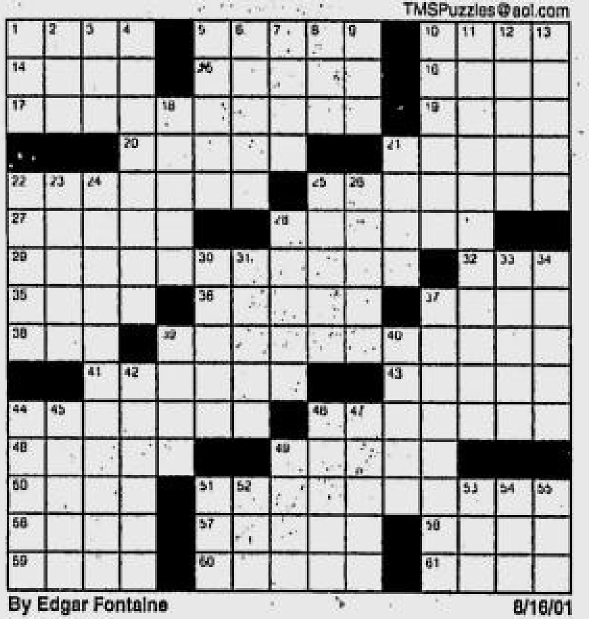
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Channel your efforts into achieving your goals. New emotional connections can be made through the groups you join. Your serious attitude needs to lighten up. Get out and have some fun.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Travel will bring beneficial results. Take the time to drum up new contacts. Your ability to express yourself creatively will attract both business and personal partnerships. It's time to maybe mix business with pleasure.

Birthday Baby: You have a strong intuition that will enable you to tune into the thoughts and feelings of those around you. You are disciplined, loving and will stop at nothing in order to reach your goals.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Edgar Fontaine
Dighton, MA

8/16/01

ACROSS
1 Sorry 'bout that!
5 Despised
10 Mineral supplement
14 Opera highlight
15 Martini garnish
16 Archibald or Thurman
17 George W. Bush, e.g.
19 Make reference to
20 Walrus teeth
21 Shaped like a rocket's nose
22 Board of painters
25 Postwar generation
27 Separated
28 Tenet
29 "Common Sense" author's assassin?
32 Horse morsel
35 Complexion damage
36 Convex molding
37 Consequently: Lat.
38 What'd I tell ya?
39 Bangor brook?
41 Made amends
43 Garbage
44 "The Blue Danube" composer
46 Electra's sibling
48 Irregularly notched
49 Nice good-bye?
50 Drawn tight
51 "Able was I ere I saw Elba," e.g.
56 Trident feature
57 For all to hear
58 Author Bagnold
59 Reo producer
60 Has an opinion
61 Hardens

DOWN
1 Rower
2 Magnetite or hematite
3 Die dot
4 Golden-colored table wine
5 Composer of "The Planets"
6 The same
7 Spasmodic contractions
8 Gabor sister
9 Bear's lair
10 Financial gain
11 British poet's ecological zone?
12 River frolicker
13 Requirements
18 City in Montana
21 Coconut fiber
22 Mamas' mates
23 Speedily
24 "Moonlight Gambler" singer takin' it easy?
25 Strait of __ Isle
26 Butter subs
28 Fair-haired
30 Zen paradoxes
31 Climbing plants
33 Striped gem
34 Weighty books
37 Expungings
39 Wry face
40 Winter wool
42 Predilections
44 Fight
45 Lag behind
46 Strong dislike
47 Skins
49 __ vera
51 Beatnik's abode
52 Tankard filler
53 Smallest bill
54 Sch. near Harvard
55 Ames and Asner

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

M	A	R	S	■	O	L	D	E	R	■	A	P	E	R
A	B	U	T	■	C	L	A	R	A	■	D	O	N	A
N	E	M	O	A	H	A	B	A	N	D	H	O	O	K
■	■	■	O	M	E	N	■	S	T	E	E	P	L	E
K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O	■	■	A	R	O	A	R
A	R	I	E	S	■	■	V	E	R	N	E	■	■	■
Y	E	N	S	■	O	B	E	R	O	N	■	S	T	E
A	N	N	■	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	■	P	E	G
K	A	Y	■	T	I	T	A	N	S	■	B	R	E	R
■	■	■	T	O	T	E	R	■	■	E	L	I	T	E
A	S	S	A	M	■	■	M	I	D	N	I	G	H	T
S	W	I	N	I	S	H	■	R	E	I	N	■	■	■
K	I	R	K	C	O	O	K	A	N	D	K	I	D	D
E	P	E	E	■	U	N	I	T	S	■	E	T	U	I
W	E	N	D	■	R	E	N	E	E	■	R	O	D	E

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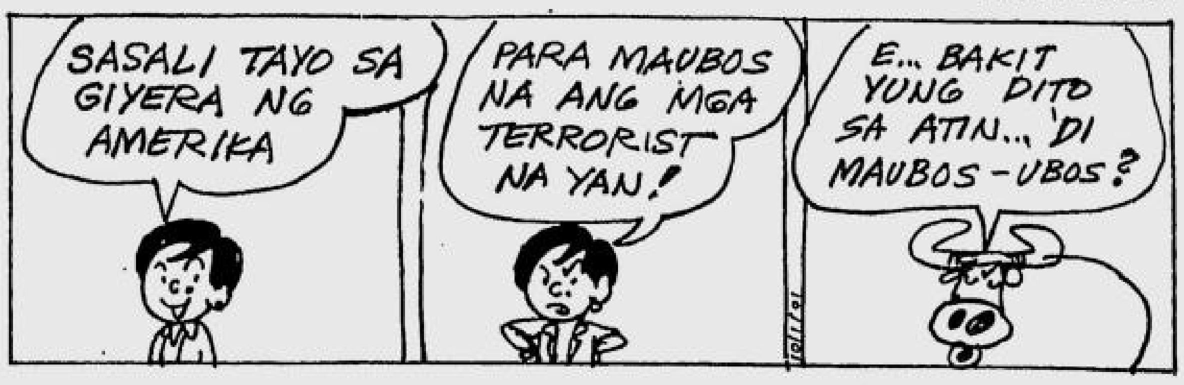
8/16/01

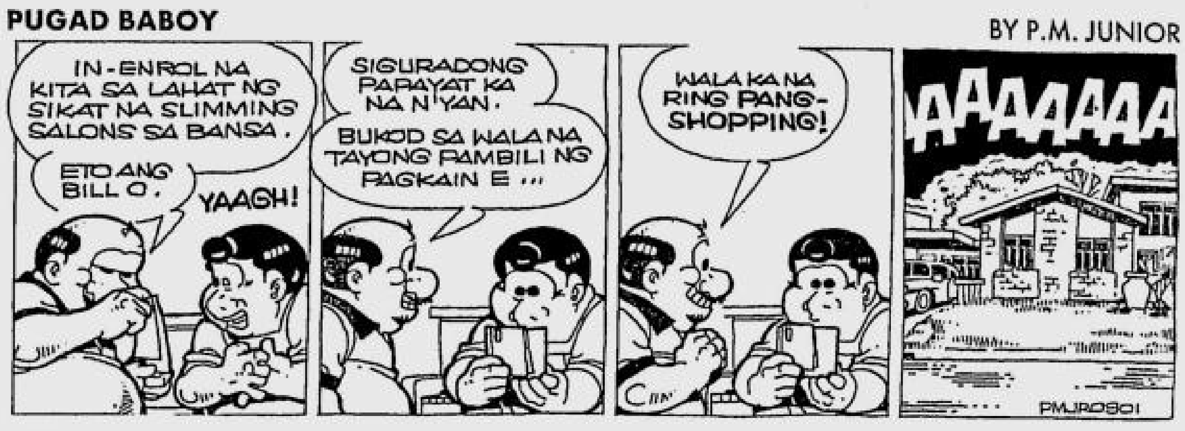
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


SASALI TAYO SA GIYERA NG AMERIKA
PARA MAUBOS NA ANG MGA TERRORIST NA YAN!
E... BAKIT YUNG DITO SA ATIN... 'DI MAUBOS-UBOS?
10.1.01

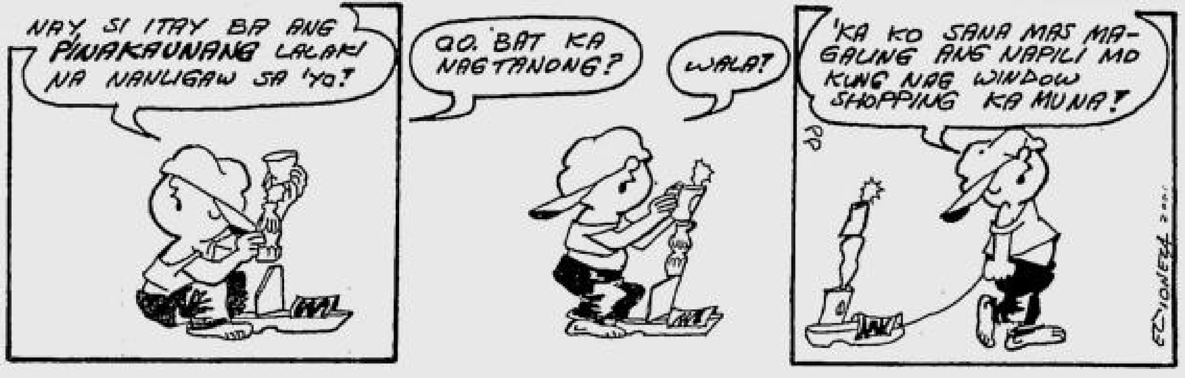
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


IN-ENROL NA KITA SA LAHAT NG SIKAT NA SLIMMING SALONS SA BANSA.
ETO ANG BILL O.
YAAGH!
SIGURADONG PAPAYAT KA NA N'YAN.
BUKOD SA WALA NA TAYONG PAMBILI NG PAGKAIN E ...
WALA KA NA RING PANG-SHOPPING!
AAAAAAA
PMJR0901

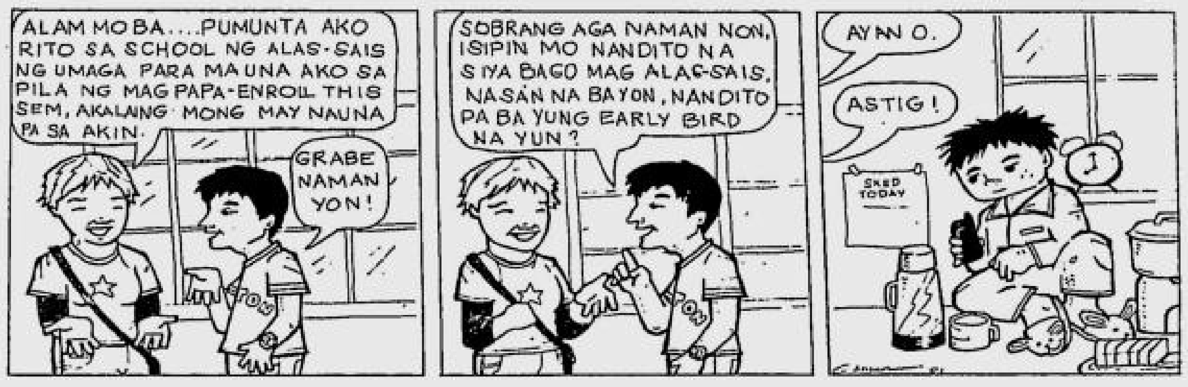
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAY, SI ITAY BA ANG PINAKAUNANG LALAKI NA NANLIGAW SA 'YO?
OO. BAT KA NAGTANONG?
WALA!
'KA KO SANA MAS MAGALING ANG NAPILI MO KUNG NAG WINDOW SHOPPING KA MUNA!
EDIONELA

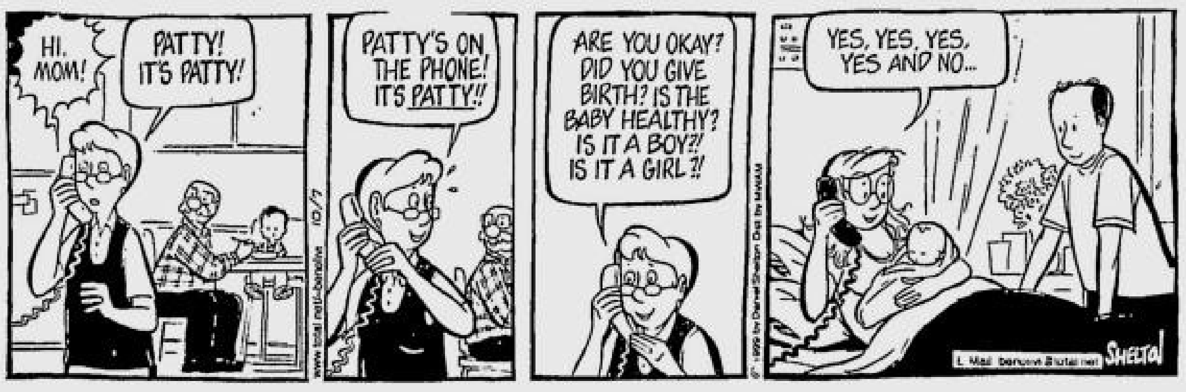
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL/BENG/MANIX


ALAM MO BA....PUMUNTA AKO RITO SA SCHOOL NG ALAS-SAIS NG UMAGA PARA MAUNA AKO SA PILA NG MAG PAPA-ENROLL THIS SEM, AKALAING MONG MAY NAUNA PA SA AKIN.
GRABE NAMAN YON!
SOBRANG AGA NAMAN NON, ISIPIN MO NANDITO NA SIYA BAGO MAG ALAS-SAIS, NASAN NA BA YON, NANDITO PA BA YUNG EARLY BIRD NA YUN?
AYAN O.
ASTIG!
SKED TODAY

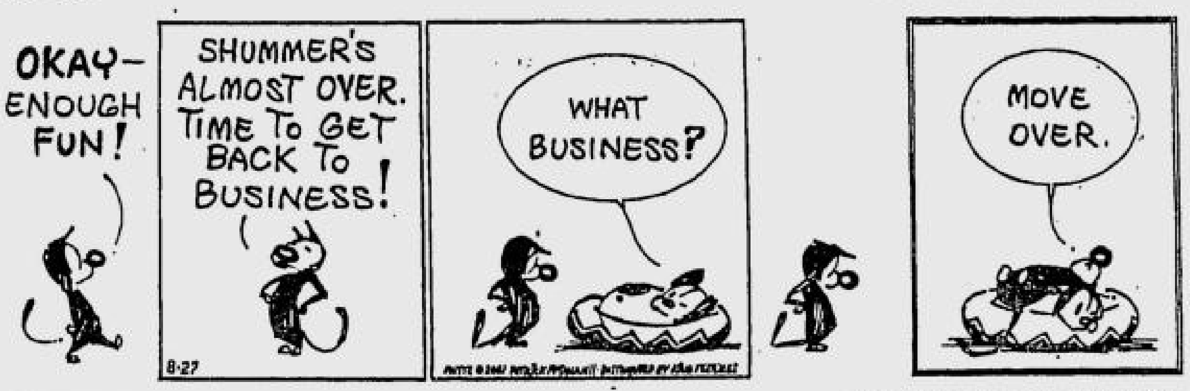
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HI. MOM!
PATTY! IT'S PATTY!
PATTY'S ON THE PHONE! IT'S PATTY!!
ARE YOU OKAY? DID YOU GIVE BIRTH? IS THE BABY HEALTHY? IS IT A BOY?! IS IT A GIRL?!
YES, YES, YES, YES AND NO...
10/1
SHELTON

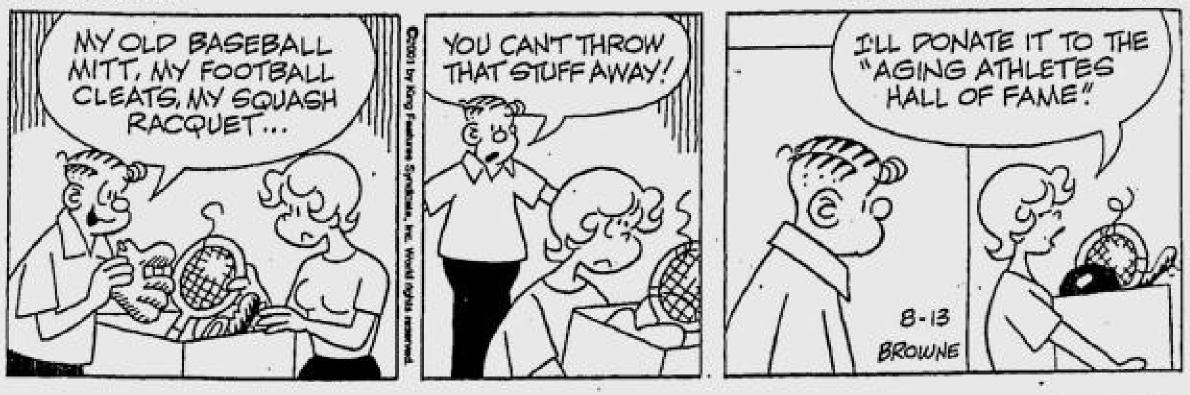
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


OKAY— ENOUGH FUN!
SHUMMER'S ALMOST OVER. TIME TO GET BACK TO BUSINESS!
WHAT BUSINESS?
MOVE OVER.
8-27

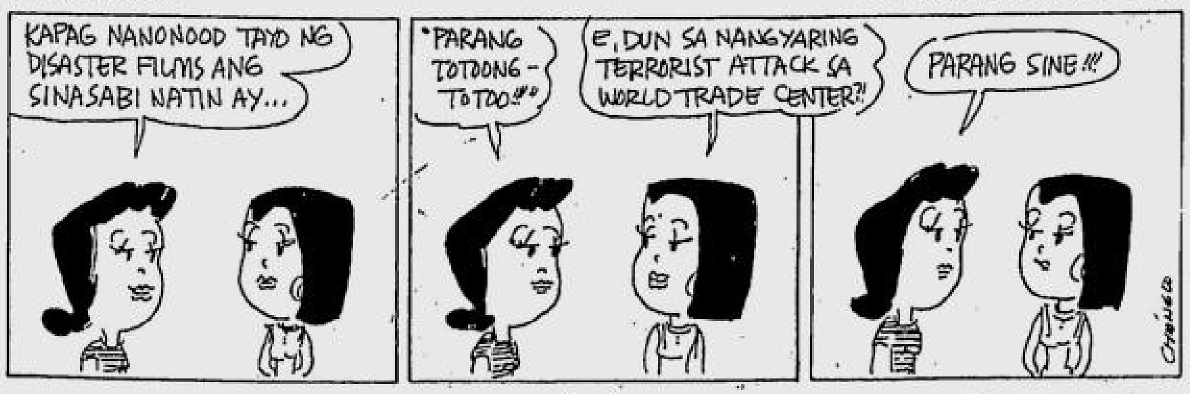
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


MY OLD BASEBALL MITT, MY FOOTBALL CLEATS, MY SQUASH RACQUET...
YOU CAN'T THROW THAT STUFF AWAY!
I'LL DONATE IT TO THE "AGING ATHLETES HALL OF FAME!"
8-13
BROWNE

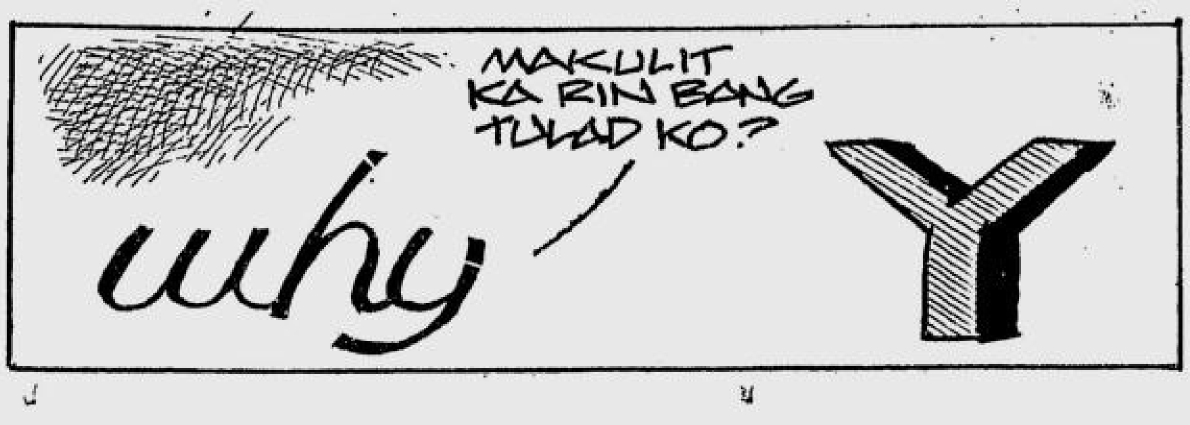
LOVEKNOTS

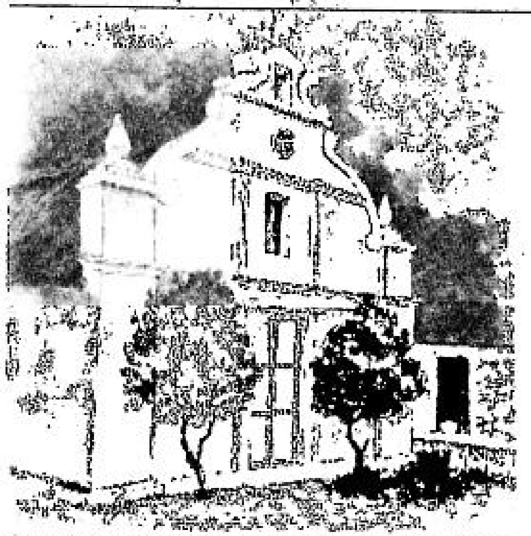
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

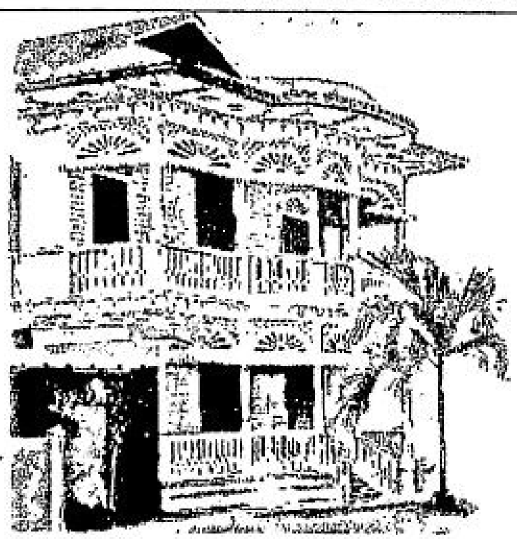

KAPAG NANONOOD TAYO NG DISASTER FILMS ANG SINASABI NATIN AY...
"PARANG TOTOONG-TOTOO!!"
E, DUN SA NANGYARING TERRORIST ATTACK SA WORLD TRADE CENTER?!
PARANG SINE!!!
CHIONGLO

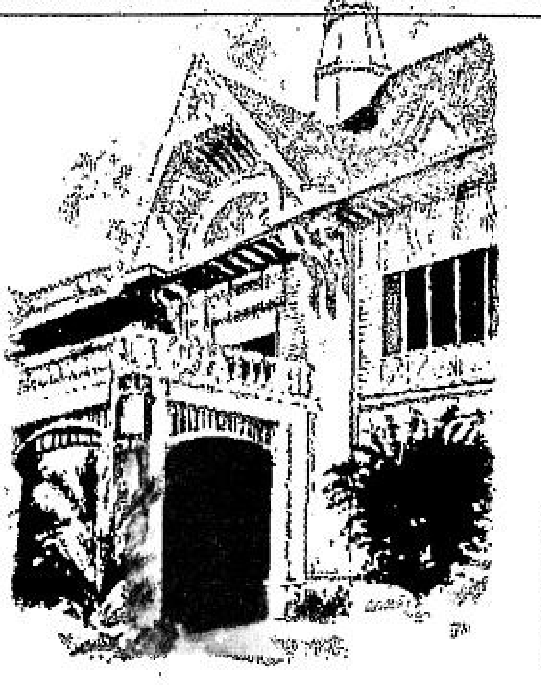
TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


MAKULIT KA RIN BANG TULAD KO?
why
Y


CHAPEL in Chavayan, Sabtang Island, Batanes


CARCAR Dispensary, Cebu province


LEGARDA Elementary School, Sampaloc, Manila. Designed by architect Andres Luna de San Pedro in 1922

Heritage sites in watercolor

(From page E1)

tage sites, structures and cultural landmarks through education and outreach programs. It is also involved in legal advocacy, sustainable development and urban and civic renewal.

Mehan Garden

Currently, the HCS Legal Bureau is leading multisectoral groups in saving the historic Mehan Gardens from two Manila City Hall-sponsored development projects: the construction of the City Colleges of Manila campus and the erection of a parking lot/bus terminal/mall called Park and Ride. Both constructions take place in one of Manila's most archeologically relevant sites. Should the constructions continue, they may destroy precious cultural artifacts that still have not been excavated and deface Mehan Garden, which is designated by the National Historical Institute as a national landmark.

This issue has gained the attention of Department of the Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez, who found both projects violating their DENR environmental clearance certificates. Currently, the constructions have been halted.

Last year, the HCS filed a case with the Office of the Ombudsman against Intramuros Administration's Dominador Ferrer for violating Presidential Decree 1616 or the Intramuros Charter. In a decision issued last June, the Ombudsman found Ferrer to be administratively liable for leasing spaces within the Intramuros walls to Amado Cruz without the benefit of a public bidding. Ferrer has appealed this decision and holds on to his office while awaiting a final resolution.

Other endangered sites that the HCS Legal Bureau seeks to save are the Huluga Caves in Cagayan de Oro, the Fuerte de La Concepcion y Del Triunfo in Ozamis City and the Plaza Independencia in Cebu City, which are all under threat of destruction by their own local governments.

The HCS Legal Bureau plans a series of public consultations for the Landmarks Bill authored in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA). The proposed law aims to preserve endangered heritage structures through the provision of incentives such as income and/or inheritance tax breaks for restoration work while imposing sanctions on those who destroy listed heritage structures.

The Landmarks Bill, also known as Senate Bill No. 2124, was filed in the Senate by Sen. Gregorio Honasan and in the House of Representatives by Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad.

Style guide

To prevent conflicts like the Mehan issue from recurring, the HCS Design Bureau is creating a Manila Architectural Style Guide and conducting an Architectural Critiques Workshop. This lecture/workshop seeks to assist the present and future architects of our cities in developing an urban environment in keeping with historical, environmental and legal standards.

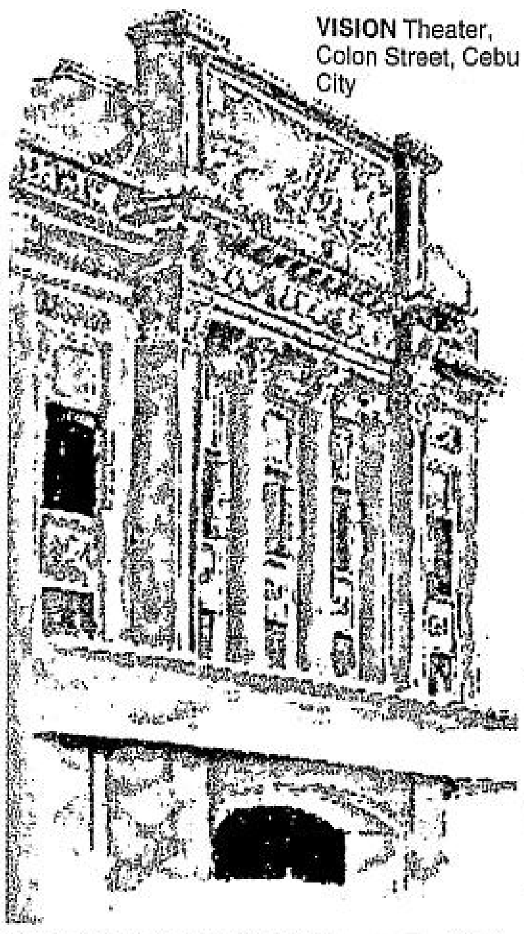
The Design Bureau also advocates the rehabilitation and restoration of three historic fire stations in Manila: the Paco, the San Nicolas and the Tanduay stations. Feasibility studies and architectural blueprints for the stations have already been completed by the HCS Design Bureau. The HCS is now seeking funding for their implementation.

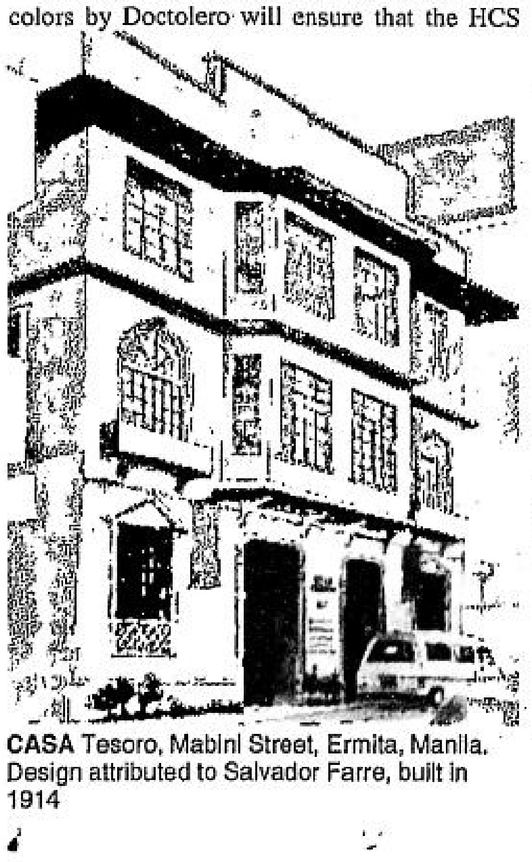
The focal point of the HCS education and awareness campaign is the weekly Architectural Walking Tour of significant historic sites such as Intramuros, Rizal Park, Escolta, Luneta Park, the San Beda Chapel and the campuses of the Far Eastern University and the University of Santo Tomas. Out-of-town tours include Malolos and San Miguel de Mayumo, both historic locations in Bulacan. These tours are offered to the public at a nominal charge with discounted rates for students and government employees.

The funds raised from the sale of the watercolors by Doctolero will ensure that the HCS can continue its activities. The general public is invited to view the exhibit and help the HCS by purchasing an artwork.

Contact the HCS at www.hcsphils.org, call 521-2239, fax 522 2497 or visit the Secretariat at the Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard, Rizal Park.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph


VISION Theater, Colon Street, Cebu City


CASA Tesoro, Mabini Street, Ermita, Manila. Design attributed to Salvador Farre, built in 1914

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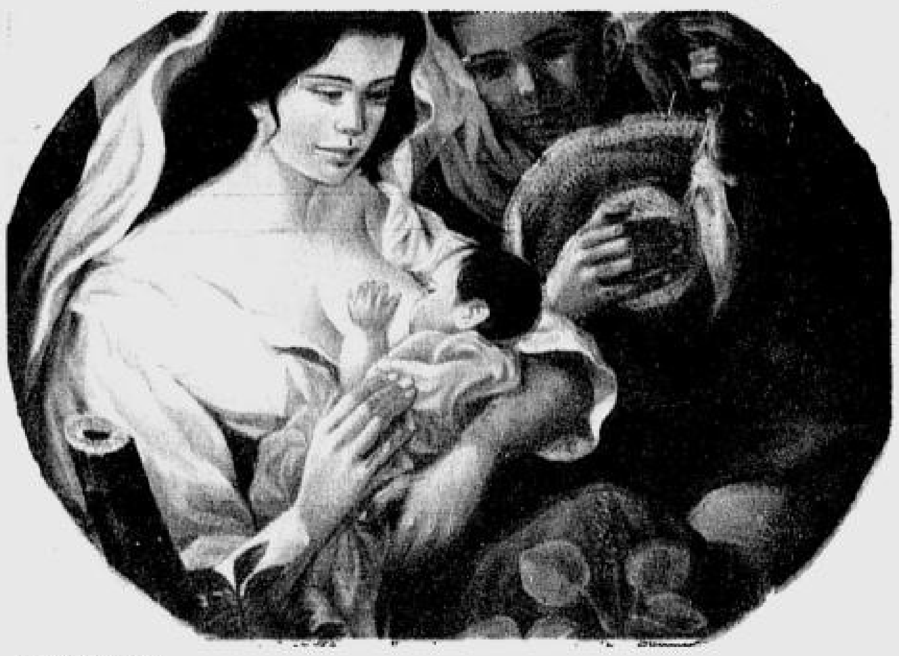
Salute in color to the Filipino family

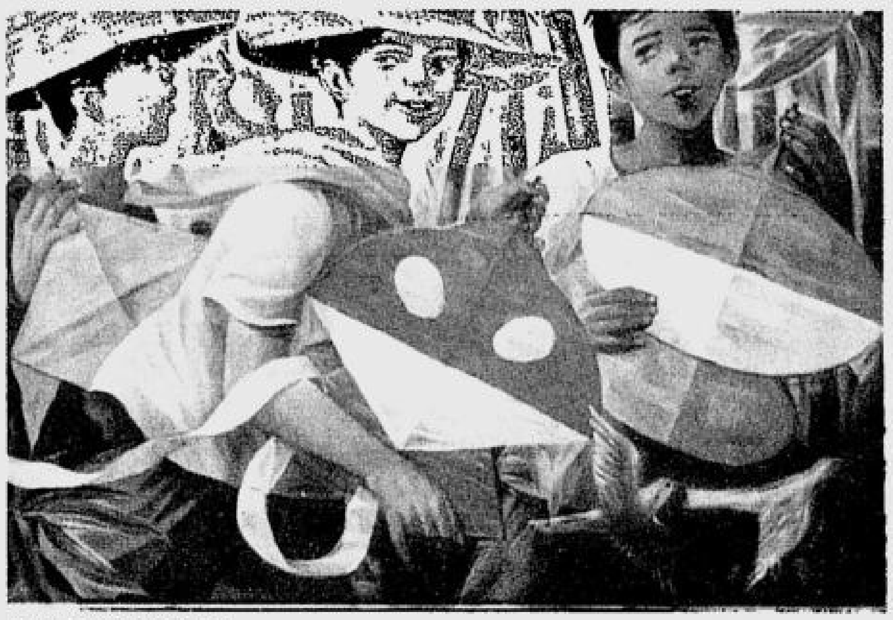
By Gino Dormiendo

IT comes as no surprise that Jovito Villamayor Andres has set out to paint in the hallowed tradition of the Filipino masters who devoted themselves to the depiction of the common folk. Having been born and bred in Angono, Rizal, he grew up in the bucolic surroundings peculiar to the lakeshore towns. Here, he lives intimately close to the tributary strand of land and water, deeply rooted in the ways of the gentle folk whom he has sworn to capture in his oeuvre.

In his fourth solo show, titled "Musmos" (Gallery 828, Shangri-La Plaza, Edsa, Mandaluyong, until Oct. 7), Andres (who simply affixes his first name to his works) pays homage to the joys of childhood, the magical moments of play and adventure, as children who live close to nature and can still bask in the freedom of space are wont to do. The alliance of land and water, and the vignettes of life it conjures, may well sum up Andres' artistic concerns.



"MAG-ANAK"



"SARANGGOLA"

Dear

The subject of children remains dear to the 34-year-old artist, now a father to two kids. The happy, carefree faces he conjures are guaranteed to warm a viewer's heart: groups of children brandishing their self-made toys, fishing by the river with their makeshift poles, and venturing into the open fields to set free their homemade kites.

Gallery-goers may be tempted to unduly compare Andres' works with those of other lakeshore artists, both past and present, an affinity which he is, admittedly, least bothered with. After all, the UST-educated artist breathes the kindred spirit of his forebears, from Carlos "Botong" Francisco and Vicente Manansala, to the contemporary denizens of lakeshore art such as Jose Blanco and Nemi Miranda. It is a tradition that he seeks to uphold, by recapturing the quintessential humanity that is the bedrock of fraternal ties with fathers long gone.

It is, however, Andres' other favored subject—portraits of the Filipino family—that his works indubitably take on an air of sharp-eyed circumspection. Here, Andres eschews the plainly illustrative mode, and boldly sets out to strike a responsive chord in the face of his mother-and-child figurations. It is, of course, one subject teeming with infinite possibilities, and Andres, to his credit, has crafted his with far more expressive visage.

Striking

The "Mag-ina" is particularly striking in its evocation of the mother-and-child icon. Here, the mother is shown cradling her babe to her breast, her other hand clutching a *bilao*. The piece shows lines that are robust and fluid and the light lambent and graceful. Consider the way Andres creates movement simply by the depiction of the creases on the mother's *baro't saya*, and the seemingly wind-swept bandanna that doubles as a halo.

In "Munting Kayamanan," Andres evokes the primordial familial affection in the maternal hug, the mother's arms gently caressing the child. And there's also the variation of this subject in "Pagmamahal," where mother and child are shown together sleeping in a hammock, enjoying the siesta hour, and totally freed from the cares of the world.

Equally arresting in its depiction of the father-and-child boarding. "Halik Kapalit ng Isang Himig" shows a father holding his young daughter aloft, as she is about to buzz him, while his left arm precariously holds a guitar, almost in a dangling position, having virtually lost the competition.

Andres, in all these scenes, pays reverential homage to the family, a theme which is synonymous to his art. By harking back to the age when the family attained its primacy as the basic unit of society, Andres seeks to revive and restore the great traditions of our people, which are central to the roots of our culture. Those simple joys of the good, old life need some kind of celebrating in this age of awesome terrors.

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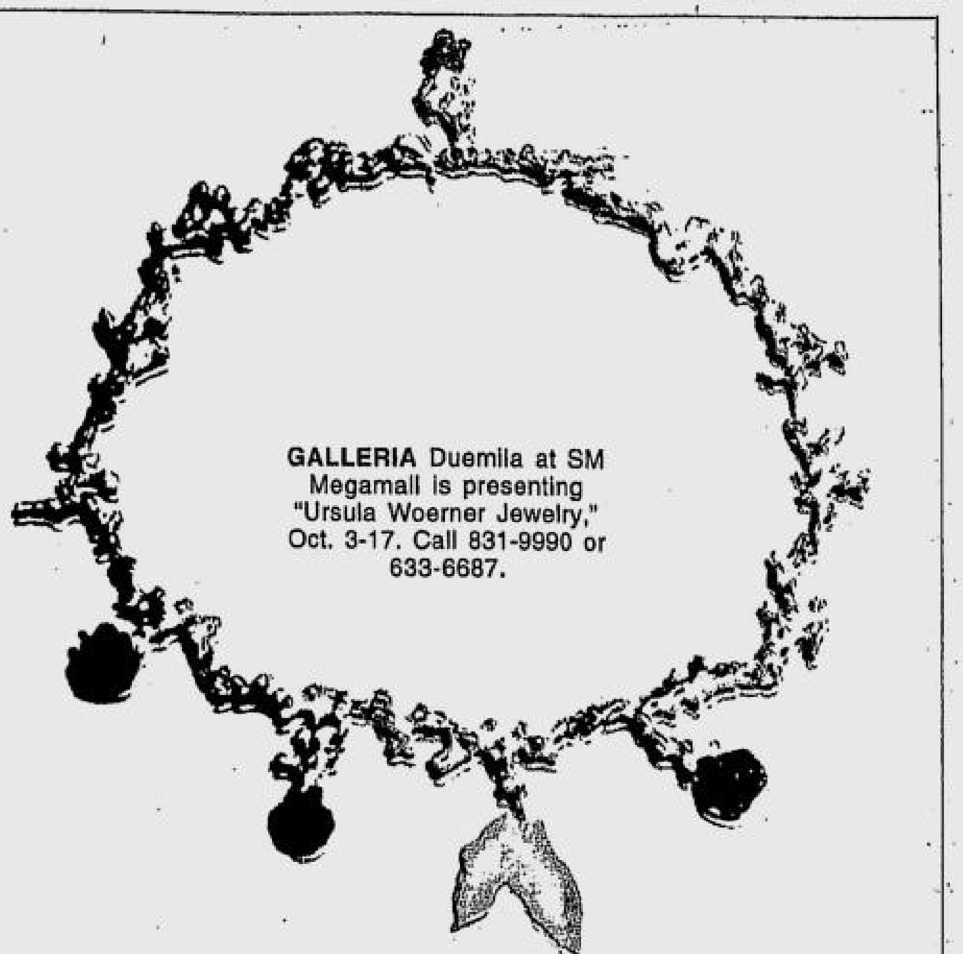


GALLERIA Duemila at SM Megamall is presenting "Ursula Woerner Jewelry," Oct. 3-17. Call 831-9990 or 633-6687.

Hilario at Boston Gallery, Modesto at Drawing Room

VISUAL ARTS

RIEL Hilario is holding his first solo exhibit, "Works without Faith," until Oct. 9, at the Boston Gallery (72-A Boston St., Cubao, QC). The exhibit features paintings that fuse traditional Christian iconography, urban imagery and cyberspace jargon. Call 722-9205.

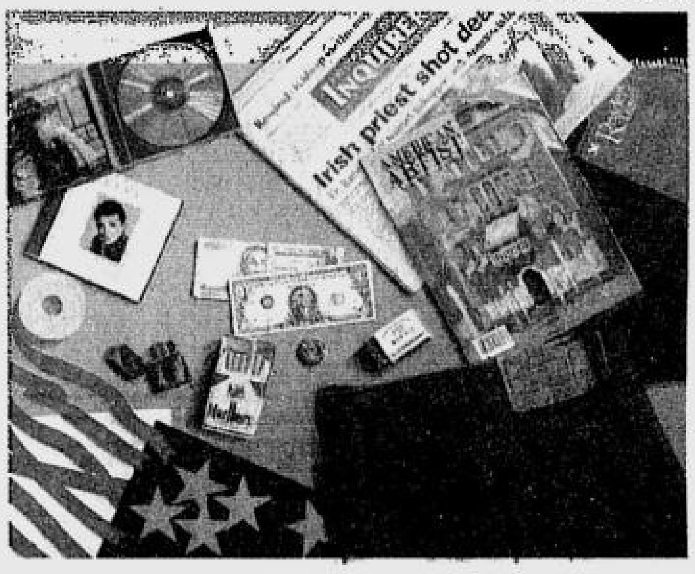
MODESTO AT THE DRAWING ROOM. Fernando Modesto is showing his large drawings on paper until Oct. 17 at the Drawing Room (Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Ave., Makati City). Modesto is known for his cosmic symbolism; the angel is a recurring symbol. Call 897-6990/7877.

DEL CASAL AT FINALE ART FILE. Rafael del Casal holds "Still Life," which features a series of oil paintings, until Oct. 10, at the Finale Art File Gallery (403 LaO Centre, Pasay Road corner Makati Avenue, Makati City).

GROUP EXHIBIT AT THE MET. The Metropolitan Museum of Manila is exhibiting "Ten: Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan's 10th Anniversary Exhibit," which features published and unpublished works by selected members of Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan, at the Upper Level Galleries of the Met Museum, until Oct. 6. Call 523-7855.

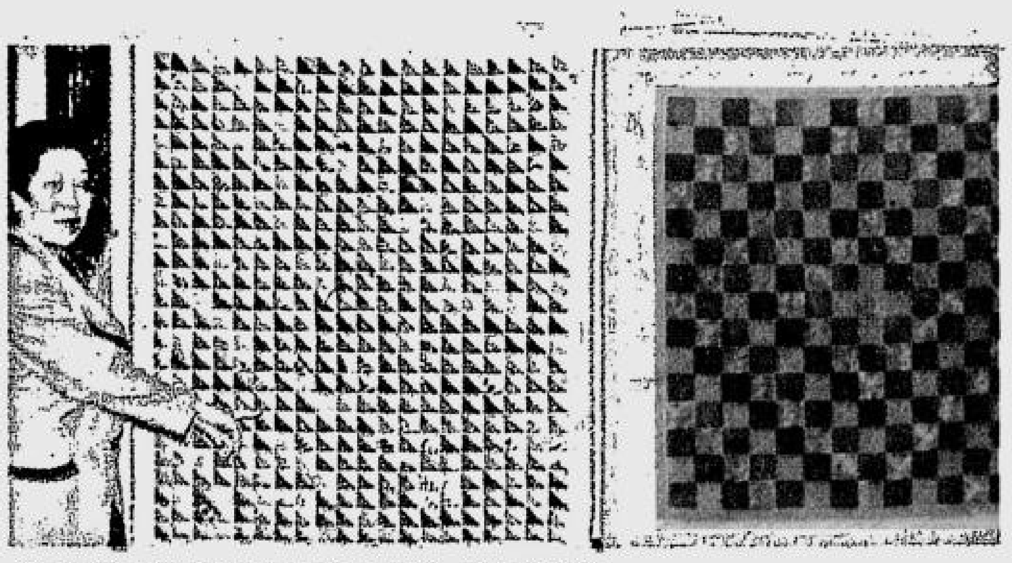
BALDEMOR AT THE ART CENTER. Manuel D. Baldemor is holding "A New Perspective" at

HILARIO/p.E7



"**NOON** at Ngayon" by Cee Cadid, at Heart Center

THE METRO Manila Council of Women Balikatan Movement led by Leonarda Camacho gifted Saudi Arabia King Fahd, through Saudi Arabia Ambassador Saleh Al-Ghamdi, a finger-painting dubbed "Undersea World" by artist Rafael Pacheco. The painting represents the group's friendship and goodwill for Saudi Arabia, which now employs 750,000 Filipino workers.



QUILTS BY EDNA STERLING ABUNDO

Edna Sterling Abundo, a Filipina based in New York, exhibited recently her quilted works at the Westin Philippine Plaza. In "Impressions of Art in Fabrics," Abundo depicted her various impressions of life, emotions, nature, moods and experiences—all done in quilts—juxtaposing colors and fabrics in creating scenes from favorite legends and literature. The collage of colors could produce a symbolic or suggestive effect on the viewer. Some of Abundo's pieces were auctioned in Loyola School, New York. Others are owned by private collectors in Paris and London.

Malang and sons in exhibit

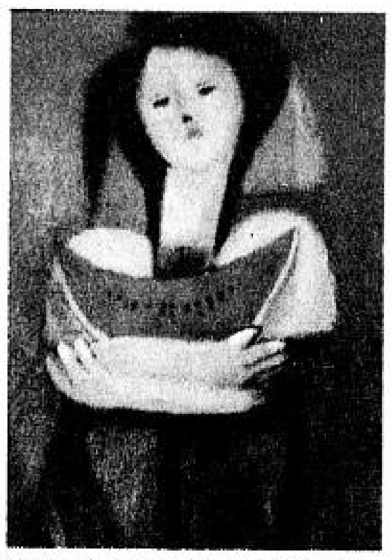
THE FAMILY that paints together stays together. This seems the case with Malang and his equally artistic sons Stevesantos and Soler. Their latest collaboration can be seen in "Old and New Works," a three-man show at the Glorietta Artspace on Oct. 3-14.

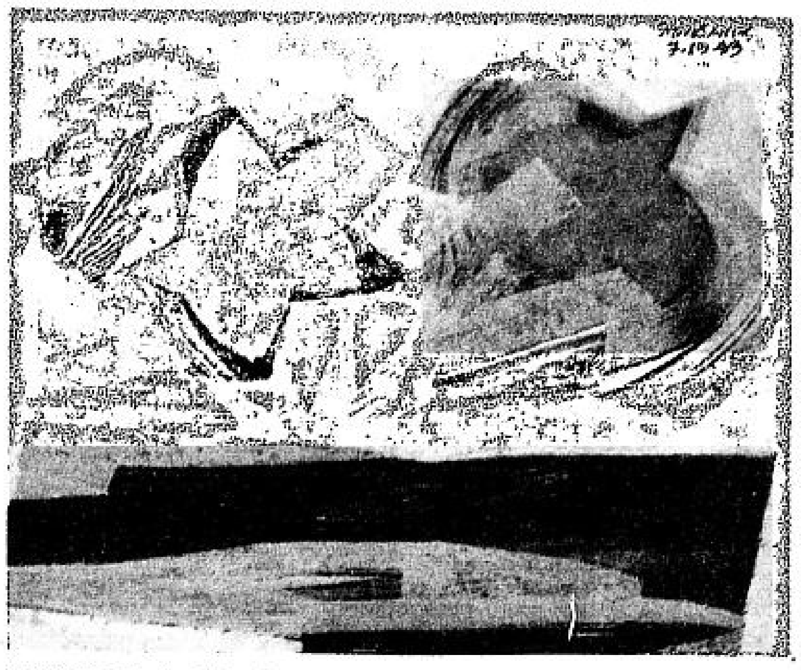
Malang tirelessly searches for new artistic challenges, while his sons continue to make their own mark in the art scene. To this day, Malang sets an example that is very hard to top—he spends most of his day sketching or painting longer than his sons do. His journal is in the form of a sketchbook, which he carries everywhere he goes. He knows that every second counts so he makes a stroke or two when time permits. His paintings of women are legendary bestsellers.

Stevesantos and Soler are not clones of their father. Each has found his own style. Stevesantos paints with visible ease and flowing elegance. His background in design has made his colors and compositions, frequently traversing the abstract world, fit in nicely. An art critic once said of Stevesantos: "He can transform the actual world into a dreamland, where every element is assigned a spot so as not to jolt the harmony of the whole."

Soler's concern for the environment is very evident. He bathes his leaves, roots, rainforests and waterfalls in moody but rich colors. More and more, he has leaned toward color abstraction, with blue, yellow, red and green dominating the work. Soler, a CCP Thirteen Artists honoree, shows by his works that nature is an inexhaustible mine.

Call 752-7028 to 29.


"WATERMELON" by Malang


"FLIGHT Series" by Stevesantos

STEVESANTOS, Malang and Soler

Hilario

(From page E6)

The Art Center, 4/F SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, until Oct.10.

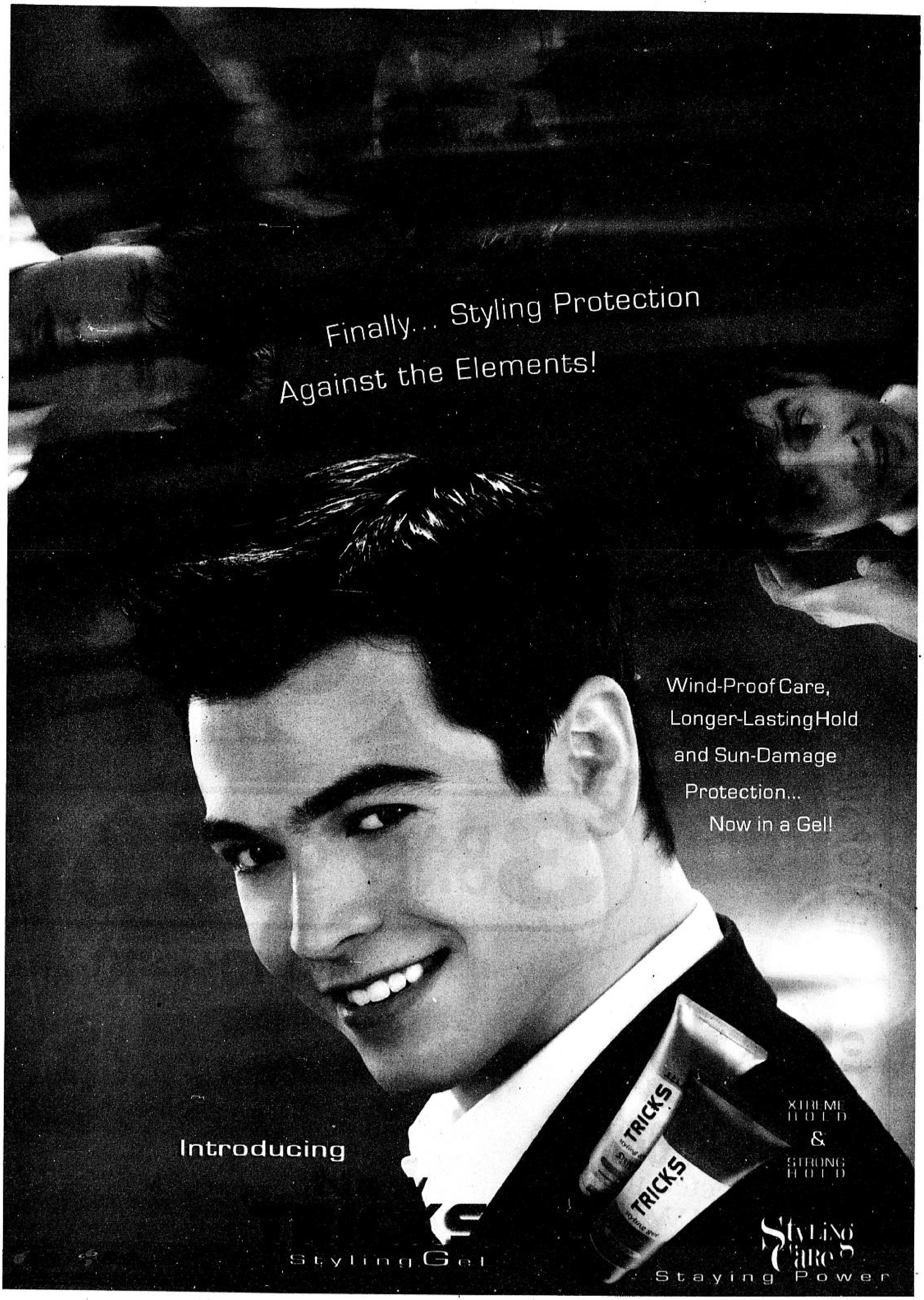
ROCES AT THE CRUCIBLE GALLERY. Alfredo Roces will open his latest one-man exhibit on Oct. 2 at the Crucible Gallery (4/F SM Megamall A). This collection features quaint, unconventional kitchen and dining table settings—focusing on the fresh catch of the day, herbs and half- consumed viands. Roces has the ability to evoke from his "lowly" subjects rhythmic lines and movements rendered with dynamic strokes and crisp colors. Call 635-6061.

CAVESTANY AT THE TIVOLI. Mandarin Oriental, Manila and Hiraya Gallery unveil at The Tivoli a rich collection of paintings demonstrating vivid images of fruits, flowers, and sunshine by Spanish-Filipino painter Valeria Cavestany. The exhibit opens today. Call 750-8888 local 2431/2432 or the Hiraya Gallery at 523-3331.

GELVEZON-TEQUI AT THE FINALE. Ofelia Gelvezon-Tequi holds an exhibit at the Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall on Oct. 2-14. Her paintings tackle inanimate objects such as Oriental porcelain plates, bowls and vases and indoor plants.

CADID AT THE HEART CENTER. Cee Cadid opens "Noon at Ngayon," a retrospective show, 6 p.m. today at the gallery of the Heart Center, QC. The exhibit runs until Oct.13.

DE LOS SANTOS AT GALLERY 139. Roland de los Santos mounts his second solo exhibit, "Fruits Flowers and Antiques," at Gallery 139, 4/L SM Megamall A, until Oct 9.



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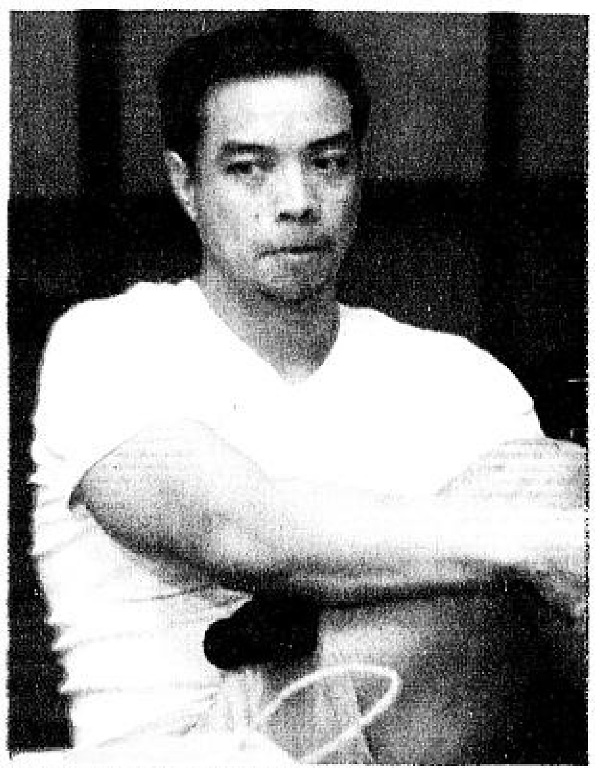
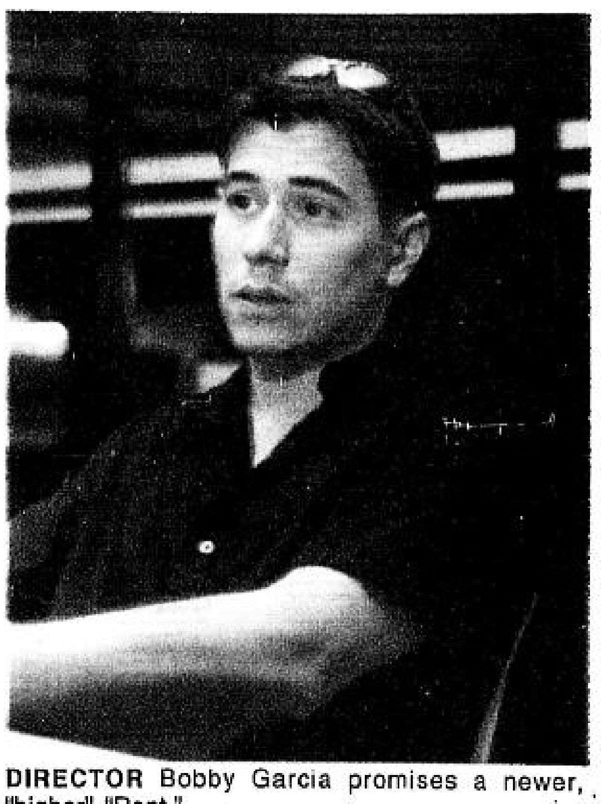
LEE Robin Salazar plays the mercenary Buddy.


CALVIN Millado plays one of the few straight roles in the play.


DIRECTOR Bobby Garcia promises a newer, "higher" "Rent."

It's another month's 'Rent'

By Cora Llamas

Fresh from its Singapore triumph, the in-your-face musical promises a rawer restaging

As the pianist at the far side of the room pounds the defiant, robust music, about a dozen men and women in street clothes cavort on top of a makeshift table. Like generations past, they are shaking their fists and rolling their hips. But it isn't just anger that sparkles in their faces—there is also joy. What they're having is a celebration.

An uninitiated bystander would have been shocked, he would have branded the scene as wild. Oh, it's that familiar wildness—of young people wanting to shake off the shackles and conventions that they think cruelly chain them. The scene, danced to loud rock music, echoes the anthems of past revolutions: sexual, generational, academic, economic, societal, moral. But the passion is made more poignant by the fact that it is celebrated under the shadow of death.

Unlike other young revolutionaries, these characters don't have a future to look forward to. AIDS is draining the life out of its first victims in New York, who will be dead in the next few scenes.

The song-and-dance number is called "La Boheme." The musical is Jonathan Larsen's "Rent." Atlantis Productions will restage its smash hit two years ago this October, after a huge standing-ovation-every-night success in Singapore last February.

Singaporeans below the age of 18 were forbidden by their government to watch it. But Manila's GenTxt crowd, the show's main market, can go see it. As director Bobby Garcia pointed out, "The younger people enjoyed a musical that reflected on life. They could understand and identify with the characters in the musical. The [storyline, background and problems tackled in it are] immediate."

The restaging, though, won't rehash past glories. Garcia shrugs disarmingly, "I don't do carbon copies." The audiences who did catch "Rent" in its original six-week staging in Manila in 1999 can expect new things and maybe a few surprises in this production.

Grittier

The set to be mounted at the GSIS Theater promises to be grittier, perhaps more reflective of each of the diverse personalities that inhabit the condemned New York apartment. In the original Manila production, "Rent's" iconoclasts basically ran in and out (or climbed up and down) the side of one two-story tenement. This restaging is big enough to accommodate actual scene changes, and the audience just might get to see Mimi's nightclub and the outdoor protest park, not just the living room of buddies Roger and Mark.

Atlantis would also bring in new and state-of-the-art sound equipment to complement GSIS Theater's audio system. Garcia is nonplussed about the venue's location at the farthest part of the CCP Complex (the original was staged in the more accessible Music Museum). " 'Jesus Christ Superstar' "—an Atlantis production also staged at GSIS last year—"was full. [The location] doesn't matter."

Another change is the casting. The new cast is a mixture of the original Manila staging and the Singapore version.

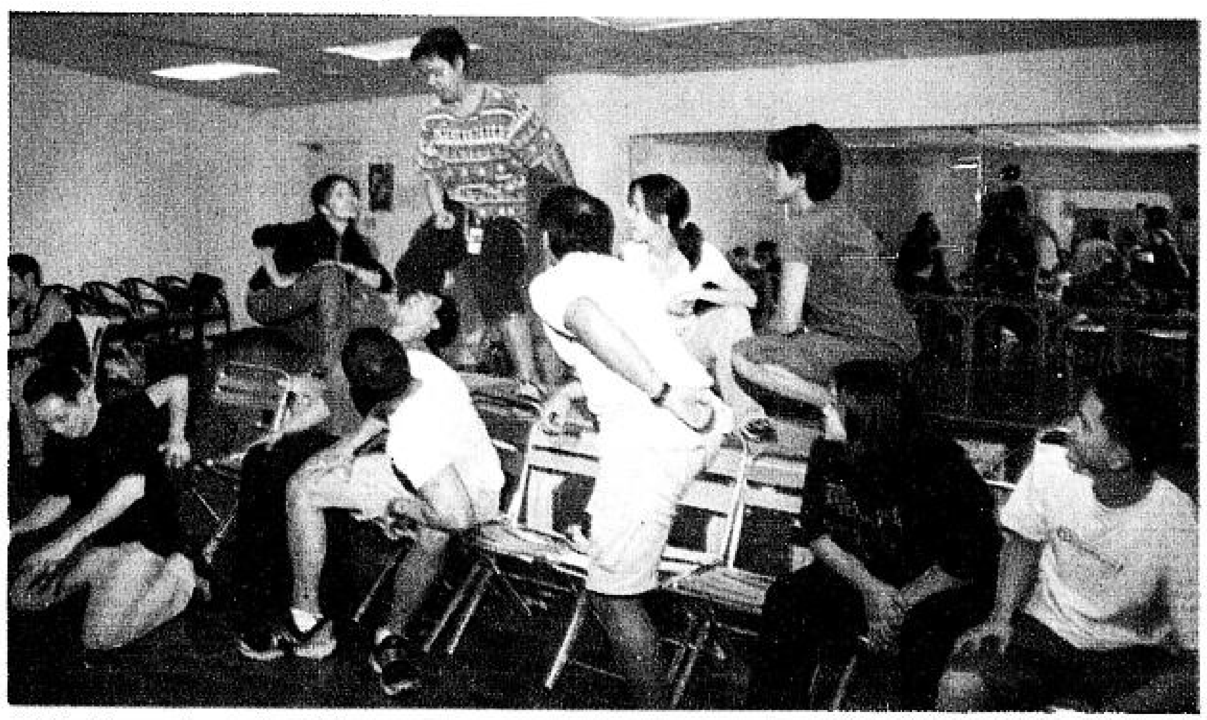
The mainstays from the first happen also to be the three of the most prominent leads. TV actor/director Michael de Mesa will reprise the AIDS-infected MIT-educated rebel Collins. Stage actor JM Rodriguez, lately seen on TV shows and commercials, once again plays filmmaker Mark, the narrator of the story. Recording artist Calvin Millado returns as the bitter, angry musician Roger, anxious to write his only hit before the grim reaper claims him. The fun-loving Millado, who never seems to run out of jokes, is a far cry from his character. Ask him what he likes most about the musical, he cracks, "I play one of the few straight characters!"

Powerful vocals

Of course, he also has love scenes with recording and concert star Rachel Alejandro, who first performed Mimi in Singapore. Alejandro will certainly lend her powerful vocals to the desperate but raging fight against death of stripper Mimi. Another Singapore production veteran is Jake Macapagal, last seen as the transvestite title character in "Hedwig and the Angry Inch." Macapagal again dresses in drag for "Rent," as the funny, gentle and loving Angel.

Alejandro's real-life boyfriend, Lee Robin Salazar, is cast as the "assholic" Benny, the ex-buddy who betrays past friendships for present cash. Salazar has gained a name as a solid actor of complex, intense dramatic roles. Though he has done a few musicals, Salazar is mostly known for the dark thinking-man's plays he's done for Actors Actors Inc.

The two lesbian lovers will be played by two very straight ladies. Pop singer-stage-artist Bituin Escalante will play the take-charge domineering lawyer Joanne. Joanne's other half, Maureen, is played by relative newcomer Lana Jalosjos. Jalosjos' mean high notes backed up Macapagal as the male sidekick in "Hedwig." In "Rent," the HRM student and UP Concert Chorus singer has a whirlwind character who gets lovers, male and female, as fast as she can dump them.


JM Rodriguez (center) and the cast in action

PHOTOS: MIKE ALQUINTO

For most of these actors, the most important message of "Rent" is not the in-your-face attitude or even the relentless will to live. Almost all are unanimous in naming Angel's death as the most moving scene and their favorite. The death of the "most loving and most generous" friend, as Garcia describes him, brings very close to home the preciousness of life, love and friendship.

In the end, it's not all about throwing off conventional mores or even raging against the light. "Rent" gives its characters a whole new lease on life, and us audience a closer, touching, thought-provoking perspective of it.

Atlantis' production of "Rent" will run on Oct. 5 to Nov. 4 at the GSIS Theater. Call 892-7078.

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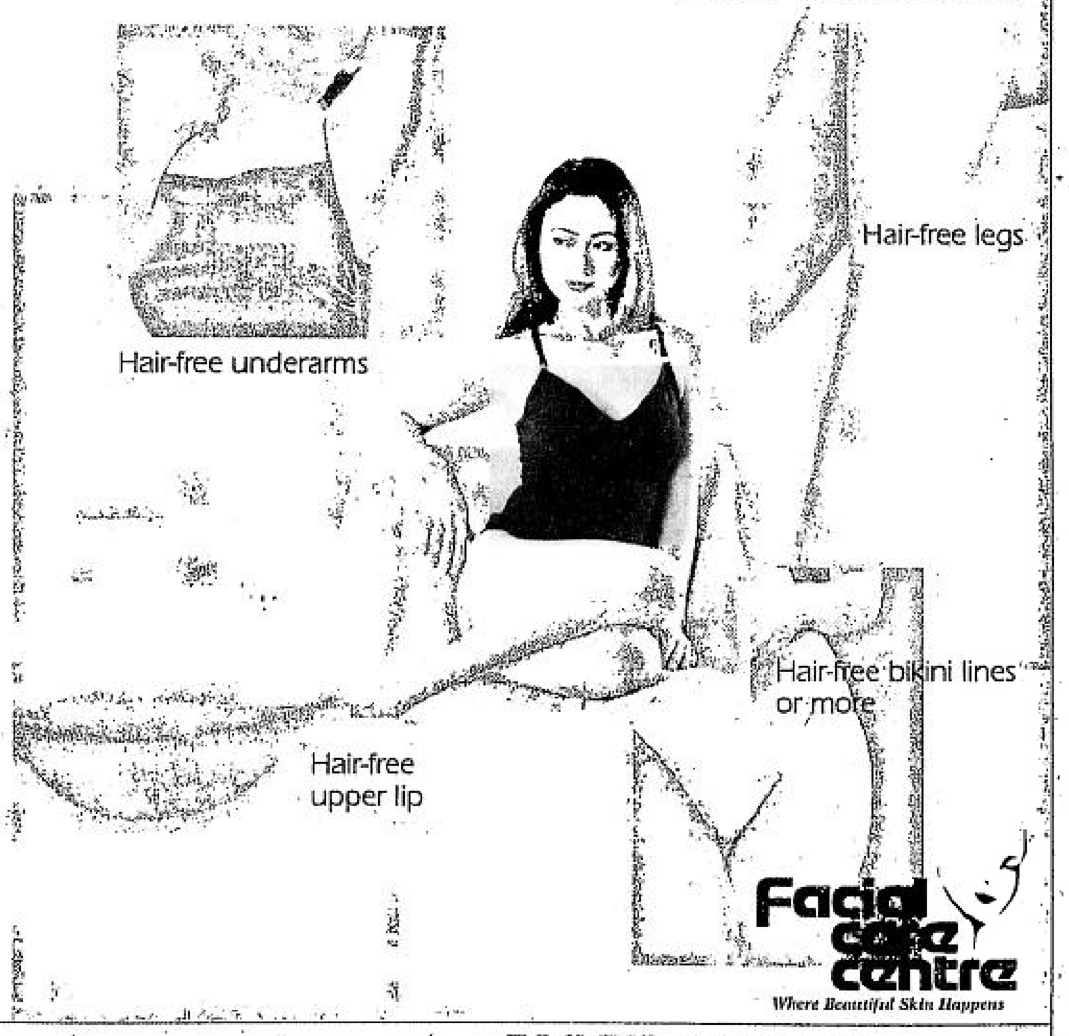

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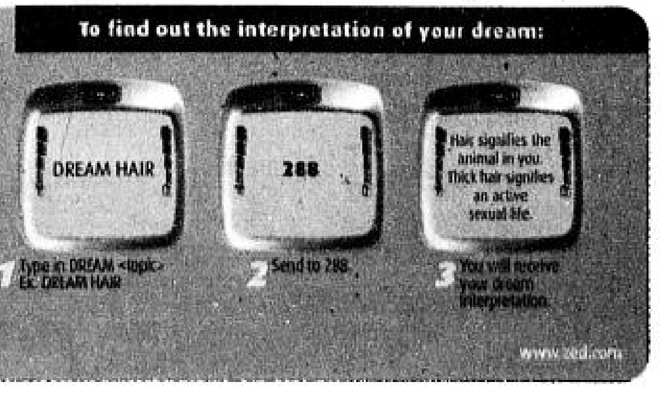
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A softer, lyrical and more relaxed Macuja in 'Romeo and Juliet'

LADY Capulet mourns the death of Mercutio.

By Marge C. Enriquez

REVIEW

BALLET Manila's premiere of Sergey Vikulov's "Romeo and Juliet" opened with pageantry at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Before the opening, the ramp was clogged with presidential guards and the President's limo was parked outside the door where there was a red carpet.

President Macapagal-Arroyo came ahead of the other glamorous guests. So as not to keep her waiting, the curtains went up 10 minutes ahead of the normal time. Unlike former President Corazon Aquino who only watched one or two ballets and left during the interval, GMA stayed for the whole three hours and lingered after the show.

LISA Macuja-Elizalde and longtime partner Osias Barroso as the ill-fated lovers in the bedroom scene. PHOTOS BY JOAN BONDOC

Not since FVR has anyone seen the Chief Executive take time to watch a dance concert at CCP. That's encouraging: the busiest person in the country takes the time to support the arts.

The gala was a night of triumph and, uh, disappointment?

Russians came

If you've seen how Ballet Manila has grown from a breakaway ensemble group to full-fledged company with its own theater in Star City, you'd be very happy for Lisa Macuja-Elizalde and her group for their long, hard climb to the top. The company has an efficient marketing and public relations group, which works overtime to promote its shows.

Nowadays, people watch BM not just for Lisa, but for the younger talents such as Elline Damian, Sunshine Huang, Aileen Gallinera, Melanie Motus, Chris Mohnani and the talented Espejo brothers and the new choreographies from foreign artists.

Living up to the classical tradition, Ballet Manila was accompanied by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, led by guest conductor Alexander Vikulov.

In Manila to supervise the production were Sergey Vikulov and his wife, Tatiana Udalenkova, who has been responsible for Lisa's artistic growth. The couple stayed for several months in Manila to train the dancers and to mount the new work.

Vikulov's version was tailor-made for the capabilities of Ballet Manila, considering that the ensemble was still green in artistry despite the high technical standards. The most popular versions of "Romeo and Juliet" were meant to be more of acting vehicles rather than a showcase for bravura.

Choreographic nuances

Vikulov told the Shakespearean tragedy with lucidity. He created vignettes that led to the major scenes so that the audience could understand the character motivations.

He also devised symbolic human passages such as dancers cloaked in black to emphasize a family tragedy or friars mysteriously appearing and disappearing in Juliet's bedroom and crypt.

"Romeo and Juliet" had a strong beginning, but after a while, the energy dropped and the scenes dragged. When Tybalt was slowly dying after a duel with Mercutio, the choreography seemed so anticlimactic. We wanted to call 911 not to save a stab victim but to rescue the audience from boredom.

The ensemble dancing, although technically clean, strong and well coordinated, was lackluster. The dance style of the men was not distinct from the women. The boys needed more virility especially in the duel scene. The girls needed more character. It seemed that the young ensemble was not used to the proportions of the CCP's Main Theater. Their movements were not as expansive as needed to cover the huge stage.

Vikulov was wise enough to focus the main choreography on the lead characters.

Not trying hard

Lisa was no longer trying to prove anything to the audience. Her dancing was softer, lyrical and more relaxed. Even the acting wasn't forced or over the top, thanks to the coaching of her mentor.

Although his partnering was indefatigable, Osias Barroso's acting and emotions couldn't reach to the audience in the back row and gallery. Romeo is supposed to be testosterone-driven. Barroso's Romeo needed a bottle of Viagra.

With principals in their mid-30s doing teenage roles, I don't think age should be an issue here. Margot Fonteyn, Galina Ulanova and even our very own Maniya Barredo were midlifers when they got rave reviews for playing Juliet. An unforgettable performance is about inviting the audience into the illusion you create onstage.

There were strong performances from Aileen as Lady Capulet who stole the thunder from the cast. As Lord Capulet, Nonoy Froilan was dignified. He never lost that dramatic spark. Eduardo Espejo as Mercutio and his brother Jerome as Benvolio gave full-bodied performances as the happy-go-lucky teenage boys who loved action.

The audience's reaction was mutually exclusive. On the one hand, there were bravos, the thunderous applause and people standing up to clap for Lisa. On the other, we actually saw people yawning, coughing and closing their eyes as the pacing of the ballet became sluggish.

That's the duality of the Filipino audience.

We've got to hand it to Ballet Manila for maintaining high ideals and artistic integrity even if the company still has to mature in artistry.

We don't know if we would recommend "Romeo and Juliet" as a date ballet, Maybe with a live orchestra, it's nice to snuggle up to your partner and do your own romantic *mise en scène*. Barring that the usher won't interfere.

FRIAR Lawrence blesses the young couple.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3266, Series of 2001

David Benoit jams with the Philippine Philharmonic

By Leah Salterio

CLASSICAL music meets jazz as the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Maestro Ruggero Barbieri, reunites with acclaimed jazz artist David Benoit in a rare, one-night engagement, "Jazz at the CCP," on Oct. 6.

Though the PPO and Benoit had performed together in 1981 in a series of jampacked shows, "Jazz at the CCP" will be the first for the PPO's Italian music director and principal conductor, whose musical leanings are on the classical side.

"What I like about jazz is its concept of improvisation," Barbieri said. "It also allows me to try something different. That is where my point of fascination in the concert lies."

DAVID Benoit

A native of Bergamo, Italy, Barbieri received his bachelor's degree in piano from the Gaetano Donizetti Conservatory of Music. He then took up conducting courses at the Giuseppe Verdi Conservatory of Milan. He has conducted the symphonic orchestras of Milan, Turin, Bari, Pescara, San Remo and Bozen, and the Stebile di Bergamo and Nuova Polifonica Ambrosiana choir of Milan.

Barbieri met Benoit during one of the latter's performances in Manila in the '90s.

"We talked for 30 minutes, but we immediately hit it off," Barbieri said. "He told me, 'I wish you would stay here in the Philippines.' We compared notes about life and music and our frustrations. David is a great guy and a very deep person."

Barbieri recalls that the performance of "Kobe," Benoit's first full symphonic work, was first proposed to him two years ago.

"I am personally excited to see this work," he said.

Philippine debut

"Kobe" will have its Philippine debut in the CCP jazz concert. It is a short story set to music for traditional symphony orchestra and three Japanese instruments—the *okaido* drum, *shakuhatchi* and *koto*. It is a ballet about a young girl growing up in Japan and surviving many tragedies such as the Hiroshima bombing and the Kobe earthquake.

"It's purely orchestral," Benoit explains. "I've done my own orchestration of it and had it performed by the Asia America Symphony in Los Angeles. The piece isn't serial at all, it's really melody. It's probably somewhere between Copland and Bernstein. It's definitely out of my normal realm."

While "Kobe" is Benoit's first full symphonic work, it is not his first foray into the classical realm. He also did "The Centaur and the Sphinx," a piano concerto, and has been a featured guest conductor and soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, the San Antonio Symphony and the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

Lito Pagayon, president of Admix Inc., representing Rado, one of the sponsors of "Jazz at the CCP," noted that "Kobe" is such a timely piece.

"It offers us inspiration in this time of tragedy and is something that many of us can draw strength from," he said.

Aside from "Kobe," "Jazz at the CCP" will also showcase Benoit's selected hits such as "Stages," "Take a Look Inside My Heart," "American Landscape," "If I Can Believe" and many others. Side A lead singer Joey Generoso joins the group in performing one of Benoit's most popular tunes.

THE PHILIPPINE Philharmonic Orchestra with its conductor, maestro Ruggero Barbieri

"Fusing classical with jazz music with David Benoit jamming with Maestro Barbieri is something one shouldn't miss," said Robert Crespo of Crossover 105.1.

Meanwhile, CCP OIC-marketing department Johnny Villagomez said the concert is part of CCP's vision to bring arts and culture to a mass audience.

Reunion

"Jazz at the CCP" will be a reunion of sorts for Benoit, the PPO and his local fans. Benoit charmed the Filipino audience with his full-house concerts at the CCP 20 years ago, when he performed with a 24-piece orchestra.

On Oct. 6, Benoit returns to the CCP on a grander scale, this time performing with the PPO's 85-piece ensemble.

Light on the heart and relaxing for the mind, Benoit's music continues to be given heavy airplay and to be enjoyed by a wide range of audience. From 1977-2000, Benoit had 21 solo releases and had worked on a number of TV scores and soundtracks. He has received several Grammy nominations, the most recent of which was for "Dad's Room."

"For me, it's always been important to explore all the boundaries in music and find ways to expand them," Benoit says. "I have all these different sides of myself and my musical background that I want to express.

"As a pianist, I love to play jazz, both fusion and straight ahead, while as a composer, there's always a need to explore new territories. I'm always trying to take the flavors from all I've done in the past and bring them to a higher level."

Benoit is now involved as guest conductor with the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation, which takes him to classrooms all over the United States to share the gospel of jazz to young listeners. He also serves as guest conductor for the Asia America Symphony.

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The lone Eagle and the Philippines

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BY AMADÍS MA. GUERRERO

REVIEW

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
WINNER OF THE PULITZER PRIZE
LINDBERGH
A. SCOTT BERG
Author of the National Book Award-winning Max Perkins: Editor of Genius

I RECALL that in 1969, the great American pilot Charles A. Lindbergh, by then an ardent wildlife conservationist, visited the Philippines. He had linked up with (the late) Manda Elizalde and his Panamin, which was extending medical services to the indigenous peoples and protecting their rights against the land-grabbing Christian settlers.

Even then there already was a lot of talk about Elizalde and how sincere he was. There were those who referred to Panamin as Panamina, a dig at Elizalde's alleged intentions to exploit mineral resources for the environment-unfriendly mining industry.

Lindbergh by the mid-1960s had reinvented himself as a champion of environmental causes and an ambassador-of-goodwill of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). One photo in this book shows him hugging a tree; another has him carrying on his back a laughing young girl, apparently tribal, "from Luzon."

A lot of research has gone into this full-scale, Pulitzer Prize-winning biography of the Lone Eagle. But as far as the Philippine episode is concerned, author A. Scott Berg falls short of the mark.

Berg mentions that Elizalde was "controversial," but does not elucidate. The other side of Panamin is not given. More seriously, the passages devoted to the "cave dwellers," the Tasadays, do not touch on later charges that the Tasadays were not primitive people.

In fact, the scientific consensus is that the Tasadays were a hoax.

Handsome and alone

At any rate, Lindbergh traveled frequently around the world, often alone, neglecting his family. And one of the countries he had fallen in love with was the Philippines, because of its wildlife and environmental grandeur.

He visited the country many times during the early 1970s (the book does not mention martial law). As the author puts it: "He had a love affair with the island nation." There was also talk that in his old age he had a love affair with a "nubile Filipina."

Presented here in this well-written, generally absorbing book are the highlights of Lindbergh's extraordinary life, along with many other details, not all of them interesting to the general reader.

Lindbergh's forebears were from Sweden. And the family history includes "financial malfeasance, flight from justice, bigamy, illegitimacy, melancholia, manic-depression, alcoholism, grievous generational conflicts and wanton abandonment of families."

Charles Augustus was the only child of Charles August Lindbergh, a lawyer and politician, and Evangeline Land Lodge, a teacher. He was born in Detroit on Feb. 4, 1902, incidentally on the very day three years before in 1899 that US soldiers fired at Filipino trenches in San Juan and started the Philippine-American War.

For a man who would attain dizzying heights (no pun intended) of success, Lindbergh led an unremarkable, not too happy childhood. He was a lonely, shy boy, with few friends. His parents were estranged, and he did not do well at school. In fact, he was a college dropout.

At the age of 20, Lindbergh "had become strikingly handsome—with his smooth chiseled face, dimpled chin, blonde hair and blue eyes." He did not date, drink or smoke. He was a mama's boy and was not interested in women until he got married. (Not that he was gay.)'

Hero

Young Lindbergh was drawn to aviation, joined the army as a flying cadet and it was only then that he became a diligent student, graduating near the top of his class. Later he became a commercial pilot, delivering US airmail at a time when this was hazardous, aviation being in its infancy.

On May 26, 1927, history beckoned. From New York, Lindbergh, after initial setbacks, flew his plane, The Spirit of St. Louis (one set of wings, one engine, one pilot), nonstop to Paris—defying magnetic storms, zero visibility, fighting off sleep, urinating into a container and, at one time, encountering ghosts. The epic flight took 33 hours, 30 minutes and 30 seconds.

It was an awe-inspiring accomplishment that elicited praise and admiration around the world. As one Indian (Hindi) newspaper put it, "The triumph he has achieved is a matter of glory, not just for his countrymen, but the entire human race."

Lindbergh became the superstar of the new technology and the first person to be constantly hounded by media, by the reporters and photographers (later to be known as paparazzi). He paid the price for success: Lack of privacy, lack of a normal family life.

Integrated into the long narrative is a living portrait of Lindbergh's wife, Anne Morrow Lindbergh (who died recently), daughter of a prominent businessman-diplomat, gifted writer and author of many bestsellers, including the famous "Gift from the Sea."

By the 1930s, Lindbergh's fame was beginning to attract America's lunatic fringe. In 1932, in "The Crime of the Century," his first born Charles Jr., less than 2 years old, was kidnapped, triggering "the biggest manhunt in history." The baby was later found dead, unleashing a wave of sympathy throughout the world.

It took two years for the police to crack the case wide open. Arrested was Bruno Hauptmann, a German-born migrant and carpenter. In "The Trial of the Century," he was found guilty and sentenced to death. To the end, he protested his innocence, but the evidence against him was strong.

Throughout the ordeal, Lindbergh bottled up his grief, part of his macho syndrome, and required his distraught wife to do the same.

THE LONE/ p.G2

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MANDARIN GM Helmut Gaisberger, Thai Ambassador Ravee Hongsaprabhas and Anthony Tottman PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON AND JOAN BONDOC

Of Thai spa and Chilean wine

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

Amiga

MAKATI Rep. Teddy Locsin and wife Louie

AMBASSADOR of Chile Carmen Lynam and Hotel Inter-Continental Manila GM Michael Herrmann (second and third from left). With them were (from left) Food and Beverage director Armin Rappika, chef Cyrille Soenen and Chilean Embassy commercial officer Frank Tressler. Colorful paintings by Filipino painter Manuel Baldemor which depict the Chilean way of life adorn the restaurant.

A WELCOME addition to the overstressed executive and the ladies in pashminas is the newly opened luxury spa at the Mandarin Hotel aptly called The Oriental Spa. After a grueling day, you can look forward to two hours of massage, facials, herbal steams in an atmosphere of Thai style and elegance pampered by professional therapists.

The Oriental Spa opened its doors with Thai Ambassador Lt. **Ravee Hongsaprabhas**, Rep. **Teddy Locsin** and his wife **Louie** cutting the ribbon, assisted by Mandarin Oriental GM **Helmut Gaisberger** and Sporatathlon MD **Anthony Tottman**. We always thought of the Philippines as a laidback place, but not anymore. **Guy** and **Claire Owen**'s company, Fitness First, runs several spas at JJ Summit, Discovery Suite and The Spa at RCBC Plaza (with **Vikki Aquino** as club manager), but the flagship is at Mandarin's 18th floor.

You never know what you're going to pick up at these openings. For instance, you should be delighted to know that **Jaime Dichavez** is supposedly the newly appointed president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines and was last seen in Kuala Lumpur. This is the same guy who used to make his presence felt at DOTC, what with all those telecommunication franchises scandals. Will someone please enlighten the benighted public as to the connection between basketball and telecommunications?

* * *

A luncheon preview of Chilean-French Fusion Cuisine at the Salon Carlos P. Romulo of the Prince Albert Rotisserie had all of us journalists (most of us like to eat, not cook) green with envy at Chef **Cyrille Soenen**'s creativity. While not too long ago all we knew were French wines, today Chilean wines, like the Merlots and Chardonnays of Viña San Pedro and Caliterra, have become familiar to Filipino gourmets.

Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam** and commercial officer **Frank Tressler** were on hand at the lunch to explain aspects of Chilean culture. Aside from *flan* and banana fritters, we have classic *empanadas* in common with Chile, but Chef Soenen's stuffing of duck liver and breast was an inspiration, as well as his rock lobsters in corn parcels. Difficult now to remember that it was the Sept. 10 and everything seemed so normal.

* * *

Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (everyone misses the old name Friends of the Cultural Center of the Philippines) held a thank-you lunch for members of the press at the Mandarin Oriental, announcing their plans for the remainder of the year, that includes the November ball originally titled "Two Thousand and One Nights" (in view of recent events, they had better change its theme, pronto).

In the meantime, by whatever name they go by, the group continues to support young and talented musicians through its Predis (Philippine Research for Developing Instrumental Soloists) scholarships and its outreach programs Sining at Kultura Para sa Lahat initiated by president **Thelma Gana**.

* * *

Given the support by the FCCP ladies, the Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra has evolved into the Manila Symphony Orchestra. It's possible some of you remember the old Manila Symphony Orchestra and how Tita **Conching Sunico** tried her best to keep it going. Unfortunately, there just wasn't enough interest in the cultural desert along the Pasig. But thanks to Prof. **Basilio Manalo** and Sr. **Mary Placid Abejo**, dean of St. Scholastica's School of Music, FCCP and other generous patrons, the MSO (II) had its inaugural concert at Andres Luna San Pedro's lovely St. Cecilia's Hall Auditorium on Sept. 1, more than a decade after the original MSO was silenced.

The most touching moment came when Professor Manalo handed over the baton to conductor **Jose Arturo Molina**. No one could have been prouder than **Cez Manalo**, her son **Ino** (slated to be the next president of the Metropolitan Museum) and president of the MSO Foundation **Chito Madrigal Collantes**. Wishing them the best, considering the state of the arts these days.

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Metro Manila June 25-29, 2001
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1	89.1	DWAV (Wave-FM)	5.27 %	1
2	88.3	DWCT (Citylite)	3.9 %	2
3	92.3	DZRU(Joey)	3.4 %	3
4	105.1	DWBM (Crossover)	2.18 %	4

"The WAVE is most promising. Station was launched only this year and yet landed as the no.1 Upscale station"
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GUY and Claire Owen

Teller of tales comes home

(From page G4)

perform for, but Laya easily succeeded with her soothing and restrained conversational style. One of the tales she told was "The Snow Crane" from Japanese folklore. She began by chanting. She used her voice to create the sound effects of the crane in flight and of cloth being woven. Her style has been influenced by her favorite storyteller, Donald Davis of North Carolina, whom she follows in storytelling festivals. Davis is an 87-year-old native American woman who tells her stories in a monotone that is almost like music with its beat and cadence while staring at the floor the entire time. Yet she captivates the audience.

Laya is not certain she can make storytelling a full-time career, but she is certain she will continue without, because through stories, she has been "forced to look back and remember who I am."

The author is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People, tel. 372-3548 or -49. E-mail her at nenisrc@hotmail.com

The lone Eagle. . .

(From page G1)

Controversial

Although publicity-shy, Lindbergh continued to be in the news for most of his life. His controversial views on Germany in the late 1930s, as Hitler prepared for war and persecuted the Jews, caused the American press to brand him pro-Nazi. And in 10 years time he turned from hero to heel.

Four decades after the Great Debate over the Philippines between Imperialists and Anti-Imperialists, another Great Debate arose in America: Should the US intervene in the European war on the side of embattled England and France, or remain neutral? Lindbergh joined the side of the isolationists.

Although Europe was Lindbergh's main concern, one of his public speeches at the time is significant for us: "We should stop our wavering policy in the Philippines—we should either fortify these islands adequately, or get out of them entirely."

The Great Debate became moot and academic when on Dec. 7, 1941 (Hawaii time) Japan attacked Pearl Harbor and then the Philippines. "An attack on the Philippines was to be expected," Lindbergh wrote in his journal.

Like his wife Anne, Lindbergh was a good writer and diarist. His revised account of his 1927 flight, "The Spirit of St. Louis," won the Pulitzer Prize in 1953. And his posthumous "Autobiography of Values" revealed his philosophical, poetic side:

"After my death, the molecules of my being will return to the earth and sky. They came from the stars. I am of the stars."

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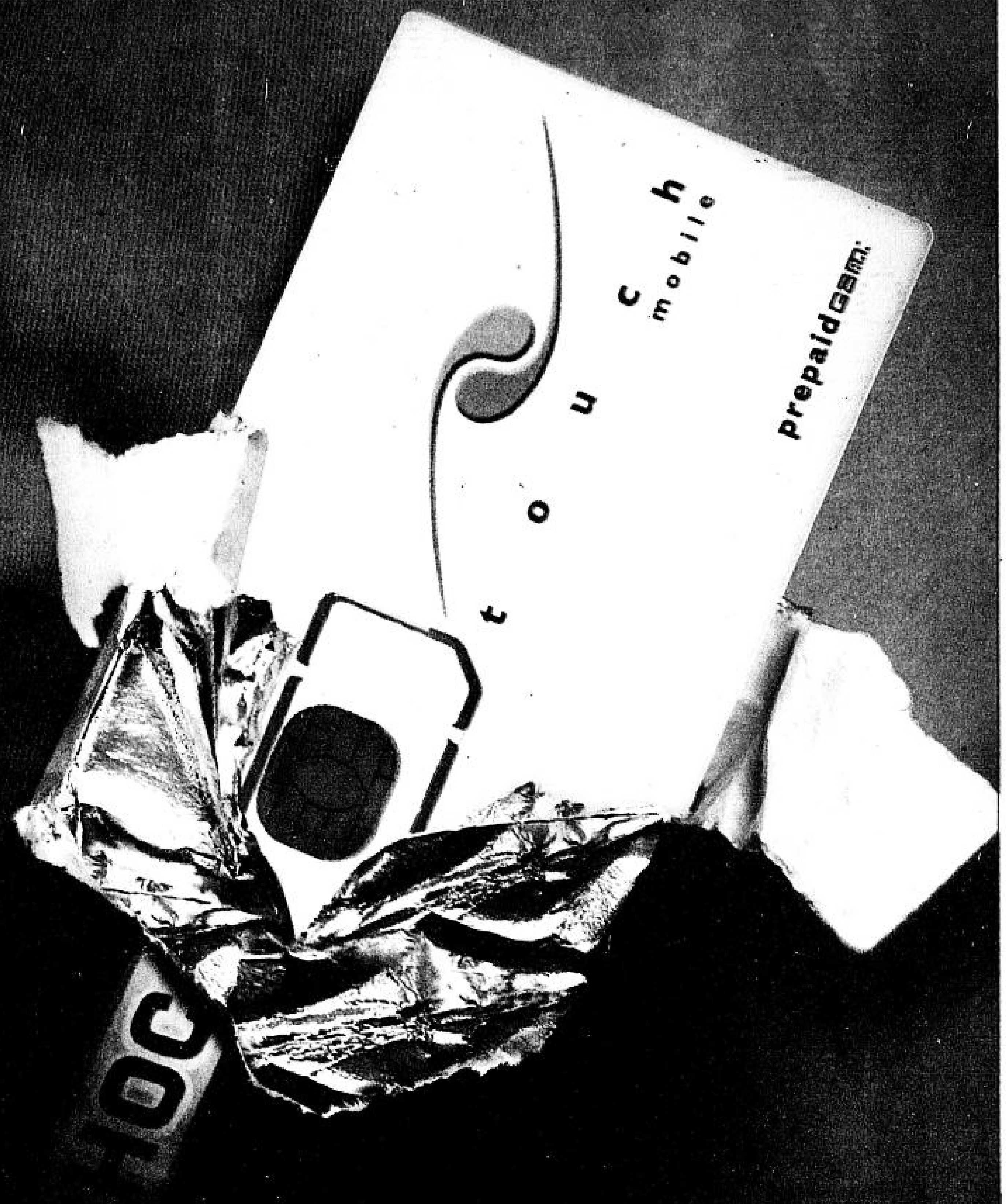

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Teller of tales comes home

By Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz

BROOKLYN-BORN Laya Lising Salumbides is not your typical 20-year-old. She is an actress, a soprano, a writer, a certified rock climber, a lifeguard and a teller of tales. Her piece, "Growing Up as a Filipina in America," subtitled "Sibling Rivalry" or the curse of being the first born, was chosen one of six pieces of art to represent her home state of Nebraska in the Library of Congress Local Legacy Project for all of the United States at the end of the millennium. And in June this year, this college sophomore major in English and theater education at the University of Nebraska was commencement speaker at the university's Medical School where she spoke on a topic close to her heart, "The Healing Art of Storytelling."

She holds the medium of the story as a wonderful icebreaker and a powerful vehicle for discussing painful or sensitive issues normally left unsaid in everyday conversation. When a story touches someone in the audience, eliciting joy, sadness or laughter, that is a kind of healing. Laya herself personally experienced this when a good friend of hers died in a car accident two years ago. Through the retelling of the incident and its effect on her, she was able to express and overcome her own death fears.

LAYA Lising Salumbides, storyteller and healer

Laya makes the distinction between the telling of tales and storytelling, which is book-based, something we are more familiar with. The latter, while commendable, she prefers to call "story time" or "reading time" or a performance "where the storyteller is an instrument of the story." She describes her method as a more conversational way of storytelling, one that is not bound by the printed text.

Some of the stories she tells may come from books, but they become her own because she is not just "regurgitating the text," but striking out her own interpretation. She does not hold the book in hand and is not preoccupied with a word-by-word retelling. She alters the story to suit her personality and purpose so that she becomes a part of the story. Many of her stories are drawn from her personal experiences, stories she herself has written and thus, much easier for her to alter with each retelling.

How do such stories begin? From events in one's life, from coffee-shop encounters, from "Guess what happened to me today" conversations.

Her impressive delivery of Shakespeare in her high school speech class made her teacher encourage her to go into the performing arts. But it was storytelling she was drawn to. She first joined the Omaha Storytelling Festival at age 14, impressed listeners who heard her on the Nebraska public radio. She has been telling stories since.

And how could Laya have avoided being exposed to the art when her own mother, Germelina Lising Salumbides, former director of UP's progressive Child Development Center, is a storytelling enthusiast and a passionate advocate for the revival of the oral tradition in the country? Thanks to her, Laya remembers a childhood with very limited TV time.

Laya was in town recently on a *balikbayan* visit with her Filipino parents and was looking forward to a beach holiday in the Philippines, actually her "reward" for a storytelling lecture-demo arranged by Francie Castaneda of The Learning Time. The mixed audience of children and grownups was not an easy one to

TELLER/ p.G2

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OCT 08
Legally Blonde
Ditzy Reese Witherspoon is out to get a Harvard diploma and the love of her life back! Joey treats the ladies to fancy makeovers, and rounds of fortune-telling at the lobby.
7:30PM - MONDAY
GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA 6

OCT 29
DON'T SAY A WORD
This shrink needs help fast! Michael Douglas races againts time to save his kidnapped daughter with the aid of his young, catatonic patient.
7:30PM - MONDAY
GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA 6

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Joey's Night Rhythms
OCTOBER 3 & 10
STRUMM'S EL PUEBLO
featuring Aliya Parcs, Jed Madela & Radha, Dye-Vest

Joey's Jiggy Nights
at Azzurro Too
featuring Passage

Joey's Reel Rhythms
featuring Acoustic Jive
at Greenbelt Theater Lobby
October 17 & 24 - 6pm

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featuring the acoustic duo Nobel Queaño and Rodel Vidal
October 12, 19 & 26
DOME

JAZZ JIVIN' WITH JOEY
Jazzman Richard Merk brings the bee-boppin' sessions to Ipanema for a night of scintillating scat.
OCT 13
10PM

PLANET LOVE
OCT 31
NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City
Joey brings the city to its feet again on All Hallow's Eve with the year's biggest dance party! Featuring wicked mixes by John Robinson, DJ Koutarou and VJ Turu - premiere spin doctors of Japan's Planet Love!

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